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THE WORLD'S BEST NEWS & FACTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

BIG NEWS
India lands spacecraft on Moon
p3

SPORTS
Gymnast wins 8th US title
p19

READING
September book pick is here!
p23

THE WEEK Junior Book Club

September 8/September 15, 2023
Vol. 4, Issue 177/178 • $5.99

Making sense of the world

THE WEEK Junior

THE BEST MAGAZINE FOR CURIOUS KIDS

SPECIAL BONUS PAGES!

BACK TO SCHOOL

Kids across America share their opinions about the year ahead p12

Volunteers collecting supplies for people affected by the wildfires

DID YOU KNOW?
Hawaii has eight major islands: Hawaii, Maui, Oahu, Kauai, Molokai, Lanai, Niihau, and Kahoolawe.

Kids helping Hawaii

Children across the US are pitching in to help people in Maui. Siblings in Oregon raised money by playing Hawaiian ukuleles in a coffee shop, while kids in Utah hosted a snack table. A lemonade stand in Washington raised $17,000. If you do something to help, write to *hello@theweekjunior.com* and tell us about it.

Recovery efforts continue in Hawaii

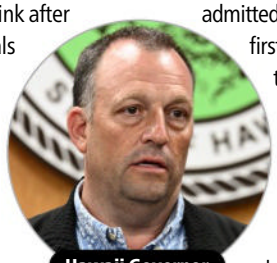
Cleanup and recovery continues in Hawaii after the nation's deadliest wildfire in more than 100 years swept across the island of Maui.

What happened?

On August 8, wildfires began on Maui, one of the state's largest islands, burning at least 3,000 acres and destroying much of the historic town of Lahaina. Officials confirmed that 115 people died and another 388 people are listed as missing. The blazes destroyed more than 2,200 structures and caused an estimated $5.5 billion in damages. More than 2,000 people lost their homes and have been living in emergency shelters. Power, internet, and cell service went down, and water was unsafe to drink after pipes were damaged and chemicals leaked into the water supply.

What caused the fires?

The initial fire started after heavy winds knocked down a power line, which sparked dried grass and set it on fire. Several factors, including a severe drought (long period without rain) and an abundance of non-native plant species that made the landscape dry and flammable, caused the fires to spread quickly and do enormous damage. Once the fires started, Maui's emergency management agency did not activate its 80 emergency sirens that would have warned people about the danger. Without power, phone, or internet, residents were unable to communicate or receive emergency alerts. Fallen power lines blocked some roads that firefighters and residents were trying to use.



Hawaii Governor Josh Green

What legal action has been taken?

Maui County and several Maui residents filed lawsuits against Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO). The suits claimed that the utility agency did not properly maintain its power lines and that it should have shut off the electrical system in advance of high winds. On August 27, HECO admitted that its power lines caused the first blaze, after which the power was turned off. But the company blamed firefighters, claiming they put out the initial fire but failed to respond when it reignited and spread a few hours later. The utility also said shutting off power in advance can be dangerous for people who use electric medical equipment.

What is being done to help?

The government, nonprofit organizations, and residents are providing assistance. The US government has contributed $14.6 million in aid, while the American Red Cross has provided temporary housing and has served more than 121,000 meals. The Hawaii Community Foundation's Maui Strong Fund has raised more than $60 million in donations, and people on other Hawaiian islands are collecting and shipping clothing, food, water, toiletries, and other essentials. Restaurant owners have given out hundreds of meals to displaced families, rescue workers, and firefighters, and the nonprofit World Central Kitchen has served thousands of meals. Local tech experts are helping residents get back online by setting up a system using satellites.

What will happen next?

Search, recovery, and cleanup efforts are ongoing, but rebuilding Lahaina could take billions of dollars and many years, officials said. Some residents worry they will not be able to afford to rebuild their homes, but Governor Josh Green said the state will support them. Power has been restored for most residents. Officials can't yet say how long it will take to restore safe drinking water. In the meantime, residents must drink bottled water. Maui's emergency management director resigned on August 17 as questions arose about the emergency response, which the government said it will investigate. State tourism officials have asked visitors to cancel or delay trips to West Maui, although the rest of Hawaii is welcoming tourists.

Japan releases radioactive water

Japan began releasing water from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant into the Pacific Ocean on August 24. The plant was badly damaged by an earthquake and tsunami in 2011, and although it is inactive, water is still needed to keep its nuclear reactors (machines that produce nuclear energy) cool. During the cooling process, radioactivity, which can be very dangerous for people and wildlife, gets into the water.

At the plant, about 350 million gallons of wastewater has been stored in tanks, which are now full. Before it could be released, some of the radiation was filtered out and seawater was added so there would be less radiation per drop. The water is being released through a tunnel under the seafloor over many years.

Although many nuclear experts have said it is safe to empty the tanks slowly, others are concerned about the impact of low-level radioactivity on the ocean. Citizens in Japan and nearby countries, like South Korea, are staging protests. China has banned all seafood from Japan.

A protest in South Korea

A rendering of the Chandrayaan-3 lander and rover on the Moon

FUN FACT
NASA sent the first lunar rover to the Moon in July 1971 as part of its Apollo 15 mission.

India lands spacecraft on Moon

On August 23, India became the fourth nation to land a spacecraft on the Moon and the first to land near its south pole. The Chandrayaan-3 mission is run by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO).

The spacecraft launched on July 14 carrying a lunar rover (wheeled robot) named Pragyan (which means "wisdom" in the ancient Indian language of Sanskrit). The 60-pound rover rolled onto the Moon's surface. The ISRO's first attempt to land on the Moon, in 2019, ended when its spacecraft crashed.

Pragyan will spend two weeks exploring the Moon's south pole, where images of water ice were captured by a previous Indian spacecraft that flew near the Moon. Water could help future Moon missions and give scientists insight into the Moon's history. Pragyan will also collect gravel and dust samples for scientists to study.

About 70 million people around the world watched the landing live on the ISRO's YouTube page. People throughout India celebrated the historic event. "It's a very happy moment," a resident of the capital city of New Delhi told the Associated Press. "It's beyond words."

The former Soviet Union (one large country, including Russia, that existed from 1922 to 1991) was the first to put a spacecraft on the Moon, in 1959. The US became the first to put people on the Moon in 1969, with its Apollo 11 mission. China successfully sent a spacecraft in 2013. Russia's most recent attempt to put a lander on the Moon failed in August. The ISRO plans to send astronauts to the Moon but has not announced a timeline.

IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

TURNING 20

Starbucks is celebrating the 20th anniversary of its Pumpkin Spice Lattes. They're back in stores now, marking the unofficial start of fall. Through the years the popular drink has "taken on a life of its own," said the coffee chain.

A Pumpkin Spice Latte

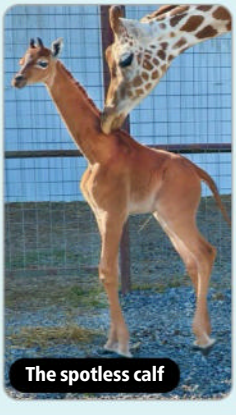
The drawing

A FOUND TREASURE

An original sketch of beloved children's book characters Winnie the Pooh and Piglet was found in a drawer and is expected to sell for thousands of dollars. Drawn in 1958 by E.H. Shepard, the artist who illustrated the Pooh books, the piece "means so much," said one art expert.

BEING ONE OF A KIND

A baby giraffe with no spots—the only patternless giraffe known to exist in the world—was born at Brights Zoo in Tennessee. The calf is six feet tall and doing well. As the number of wild giraffes declines around the world, her birth shines "a much-needed spotlight on giraffe conservation," the zoo said.


The spotless calf

ON THE COVER: GETTY IMAGES (3); SABOTAGE STUDIO; ON THIS PAGE: ISRO; GETTY IMAGES; STARBUCKS; DOMINIC WINTER AUCTIONEERS; COURTESY BRIGHTS ZOO; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (2); AMI JUEL

SCHOOL SUPPLIES
Since 2019, the cost of backpacks has increased the least while the price of paper has gone up the most.

The average school day for public school students lasts about six to seven hours.

Back-to-school survey

We surveyed students ages 8 to 14 across the US to find out how they feel about the school year ahead—what they're excited about, what they would change if they could, and what advice they would give other kids who are starting the grade they just finished. You can see the results on page 12.

New school year begins across US

Students have begun returning to school for the 2023–24 school year. Shortages of teachers and bus drivers are among the challenges that many public schools are trying to address.

When did schools open?

Many public schools in the Midwest, South, and Southwest opened their doors in late July and early August. Those in the Middle Atlantic, Northeast, and West welcomed students in mid- to late August, with others set to open in early September. Start times vary because they are set by local and state governments, not the federal government.

What challenges are schools facing?

The need for teachers has increased by 35% in the past two years, according to researchers who reviewed data from 37 states and discovered that about 49,000 teacher positions needed to be filled. Many school districts also don't have enough bus drivers for their routes. Amazon and other delivery companies have attracted some of those workers, offering better pay and benefits. About 41% of districts also need to update or replace the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) in at least half of their buildings. Without working air conditioning, some schools in Iowa, Wisconsin, and other states had to close or shorten the school day in August due to extremely high temperatures.

How are schools responding?

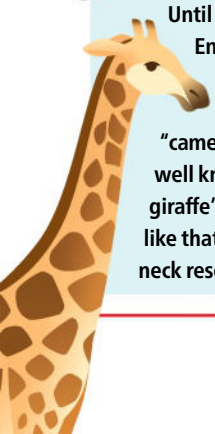
Some districts are recruiting teachers from other countries, while others are hiring people who are still earning their teaching degree. Nine states, including Arkansas and Oklahoma, increased teacher pay to make jobs more appealing. To attract more bus drivers, some districts are offering them other work to do between their morning and afternoon routes so they can be paid for a full workday. Districts in Pennsylvania and elsewhere are improving their HVAC systems to cool buildings and improve ventilation, which can reduce the spread of airborne illnesses.

What will happen next?

Most districts will have begun their school year by early September. On September 5, US Education Secretary Miguel Cardona will launch a tour of schools in different states, starting in Kansas, to discuss how teachers, administrators, parents, and communities can best support students and increase learning.

WORD OF THE WEEK

GIRAFFE



Until the word "giraffe" appeared in English in the 16th century, the animal was known by the curious name of "camelopard." Before the animal was well known, people thought that a giraffe's spotted skin looked a little like that of a leopard and that its long neck resembled that of a camel.

THE WEEK IN HISTORY

September 4, 1972
The Price Is Right premieres

On September 4, 1972, TV's longest-running game show, *The Price Is Right*, premiered. The show, which is still on the air today, consists of people competing to guess the price of various goods, from laundry detergent to cars. Original host Bob Barker, who held the job for 35 years and delighted contestants when he told them to "come on down" to play, died on August 26 at age 99.

Bob Barker in 1978

This year's march

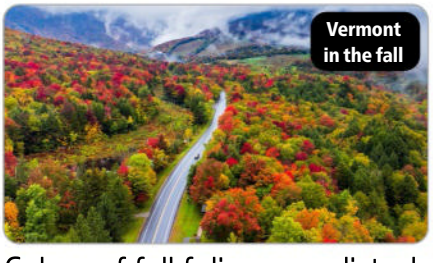
Anniversary of civil rights march

Tens of thousands of people from across the US came to Washington, DC, on August 26 to mark the 60th anniversary of the March on Washington. In 1963, more than 250,000 people gathered to show their support for racial justice, and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave his famous "I Have a Dream" speech. Although progress on civil rights has been made since then, organizers of this year's event said more must be done to end inequality.

Some of the candidates

Republicans hold first debate

The first debate of the 2024 US Presidential campaign was held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on August 23. In the televised event, eight candidates campaigning to be the Republican nominee answered questions posed by moderators. Former President Donald Trump, who is also running for the Republican nomination, did not participate. The Presidential election will be held on November 5, 2024.


Vermont in the fall

Colors of fall foliage predicted

Experts are making a range of predictions about how colorful the foliage will be this fall in New England. Due to heavy rains this summer, the color of the leaves could be bolder and more concentrated compared to last year's foliage. Other experts said extreme weather events of the past year, including drought (severe lack of rain), could cause some leaves to have more muted shades.

GETTY IMAGES (5); IFAW; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (4)

An Atlantic white-sided dolphin near Massachusetts

DID YOU KNOW?
More than 12 species of dolphins and porpoises can be found in waters off the coast of Massachusetts.

Dolphin hospital to open on Cape Cod

A first-of-its kind veterinary hospital is opening on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, to treat dolphins and porpoises that become stranded on land. When *The Week Junior* went to press on August 29, the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) was set to open its new facility within days.

Cape Cod is a narrow, curved piece of land that extends into the Atlantic Ocean, and its bay is a habitat for many marine mammals. Due to the cape's hook-like shape, extreme tides, and large sand flats, dolphins become stranded on its shores more frequently than they do anywhere else in the world. More than 400 dolphins, porpoises, and whales have been stranded there in the past five years.

Marine mammals that become stranded on shore are often stressed, dehydrated (in need of fluids), and in shock, according to Brian Sharp, the director of IFAW's marine mammal rescue team. As soon as an animal is found, the team rushes to the beach in a special rescue vehicle to treat it and release it back into the ocean as quickly as possible. An estimated 30% of these animals would benefit from additional recovery time and care, Sharp said.

At the new facility, called the Dolphin Rescue Center, the team will give extra help to the animals that need it. The center has two large pools and a veterinary laboratory where rescuers can conduct tests on a dolphin's health and provide treatment. Most facilities for marine mammals keep animals for months or years to care for an injury or a health condition. The Dolphin Rescue Center hopes to release animals within four days.

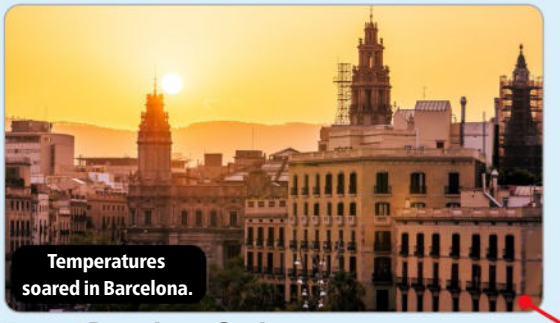
One of the center's pools

Although the hospital won't be open to the public, people can visit its education center to learn about dolphins and watch them on a monitor. The team hopes the facility will help more dolphins survive and improve IFAW's understanding of the animals. "We want to take what we learn here and share it nationally [and] internationally," Sharp said.

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

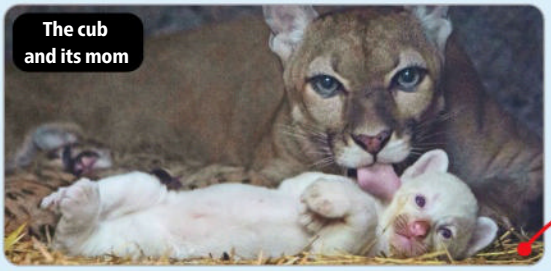
"In summer heat, bear spotted in Southern California backyard Jacuzzi" *AP*

Around the world


Temperatures soared in Barcelona.

Barcelona, Spain
City helps people in record heat

The Barcelona government has been giving unhoused people hats and drinking water to help them during Europe's latest heat wave. On August 23, temperatures in the city reached nearly 102° F, breaking the 2010 record of 99° F. More than 3,000 vulnerable people received text messages with advice and directions to air-conditioned areas with drinking fountains, and the city launched an emergency plan to water its 310,000 trees.


The cub and its mom

Juigalpa, Nicaragua
Rare albino puma born at zoo

A puma at a zoo in central Nicaragua has given birth to an albino cub, believed to be one of only four known albino pumas in the world. Albinism is a condition some animals and humans have. It means they have little or no melanin, the pigment that colors skin, hair, and eyes. While the white cub is reportedly healthy and eating well, it is vulnerable to sunlight and will require extra care from its zookeepers.

Members of an Indigenous group

Ecuador
Historic vote protects national park

People in Ecuador have voted to ban oil drilling in Yasuní National Park, a 2.5-million-acre area of the Amazon rainforest that is home to wildlife and communities of Indigenous people (people who were the first to inhabit a place). The government-owned oil company that currently produces 60,000 barrels of oil a day in Yasuní must leave in the coming months.

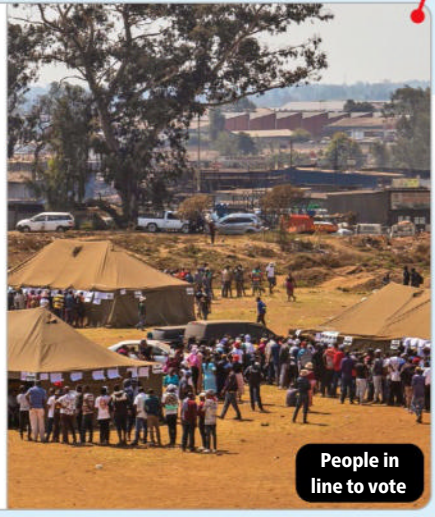
Norway
Wind farm stirs controversy

Equinor, an energy company, launched the world's largest floating wind farm (group of turbines that produce power as they spin). Unlike fossil fuels (oil and gas), wind farms don't emit pollutants that lead to global warming. Climate activists criticized Equinor, however, because the farm will bring electricity to sites that extract the harmful fuels.

Wind turbines off Norway

Harare, Zimbabwe
Election questioned

Zimbabwe's government declared current president Emmerson Mnangagwa to be the winner of its general election. His main challenger, Nelson Chamisa, said the election was a "blatant and gigantic fraud," with widespread government tactics intended to intimidate voters. There weren't enough ballots, stations where people cast their votes opened late, and voters had to wait in long lines. Chamisa said he will challenge the results.


People in line to vote

GETTY IMAGES (6); ALAMY; REUTERS; SHUTTERSTOCK; SOM

Around the world

Yevgeny Prigozhin

Russia
Military leader confirmed dead

It has been confirmed that Yevgeny Prigozhin, leader of Russia's Wagner mercenary group, died in a plane crash on August 23. Mercenaries are soldiers paid to fight in a force that isn't their country's official army. After Wagner helped Russia invade Ukraine, Prigozhin led a failed rebellion against Russian president Vladimir Putin in June.

The Jet Ski used by Kwon Pyong

South Korea
Man flees China on a Jet Ski

A man believed to be an activist once jailed for criticizing China's president, Xi Jinping, fled China on a Jet Ski. Carrying a compass and with containers of fuel attached to his watercraft, Kwon Pyong reportedly traveled through more than 180 miles of ocean. His Jet Ski got stuck in mud off the coast of South Korea, and he was detained for entering the country illegally. He can now decide whether to seek protection from South Korea.

At the final

Baku, Azerbaijan
Chess world cup winner named

Magnus Carlsen (above left) of Norway won the 2023 FIDE Chess World Cup, defeating Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa of India (right) in a tournament from July 30 to August 24. Carlsen, age 32, claimed his first World Cup title in a three-day final. Praggnanandhaa (also known as Pragg), age 18, is the youngest player worldwide to reach the final. Both players will advance to the Candidates tournament, set for April 2024 in Canada.

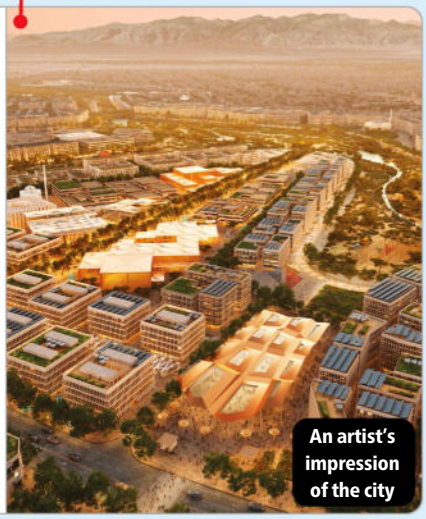
A rescue by zip line

Battagram, Pakistan
Passengers in cable car rescued

All eight passengers—six children and two teachers—stranded in a cable car for 14 hours were rescued. Their 10-minute journey was halted after one of the car's cables snapped about 900 feet above a valley. One passenger was rescued by helicopter and the others via a zip line. The cable car is used by local residents to get to schools and stores.

Muscat, Oman
A new "smart" city

Oman has revealed plans for a new "smart" city. Sultan Haitham City will be built just outside Oman's capital city, Muscat, and 100,000 people will live there. The city will use technology like cameras and sensors to monitor air quality, reroute vehicle traffic, and manage water supplies. The goal of a smart city is to use data to provide better services for the public. The first phase of building will begin next year.


An artist's impression of the city

Should better movie seats cost more?

Some say the big screen needs to make a big change with a tiered pricing plan.

What you need to know

- **In 2022, the average movie ticket in the US cost $11.75.**
- **This year, AMC Theatres tried tiered pricing. "Preferred" seats in the middle cost the most, while front row "value" seats cost least. All other seats were the regular price.**
- **AMC said people who liked sitting in preferred seats were willing to pay for them. Moviegoers still did not want to sit in the front row, even if the tickets cost less.**
- **AMC ended the plan after five months.**

FILM FACT Movie theaters in the US and Canada have sold more than 825 million tickets this year.

Between the Covid-19 pandemic and the rise of streaming services, movie theaters have lost a lot of business in recent years. They've had to look for new ways to attract customers. One solution, proposed by AMC Theatres, was to change the way tickets are priced. Instead of a single price for each showing, people could pay different amounts depending on the location of their chosen seat. Some people were excited about the new system, hoping to save on a discounted seat or get exclusive access to a "premium" spot. Others thought the idea was terrible and wanted seat prices to stay equal. What do you think? Should better movie seats cost more?

Yes—it's a blockbuster of an idea

This plan could help movie theaters stay in business and end the scramble for the best seats that happens with first-come-first-served seating. Someone who's stuck craning their neck in the front row or straining to see from a back corner shouldn't pay the same amount as a person with a prime view. Tiered pricing has been standard at sporting events, concerts, and shows for many years, so why should movies be any different? Moviegoers could pay what's right for them. People who can afford to pay extra for a premium experience can do so, while those who don't care can find an affordable price.

No—this plan gets a bad review

Moviegoers have different opinions about which seats are better, so why should a theater decide for them? Right now, everyone is equal when they walk into a movie theater, regardless of how much money they have. Those who are excited about a film can show up early to buy tickets and get good seats. Under the new scheme, they would have to fork over extra money—which not everyone can afford. Tiered pricing would separate the wealthy from everyone else, which is unfair. Families and friends also might have to sit separately if they don't want to pay the same prices, ruining the joy of seeing a movie together.

YES Three reasons why better movie seats should cost more

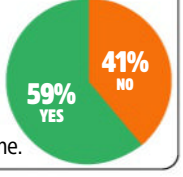
1. **It would help theaters stay in business and make it easier to find seats.**
2. **It's unfair to make moviegoers in bad seats pay the same price as people in seats with a better view.**
3. **A tiered pricing system would allow people to choose the seat and price that are best for them.**

NO Three reasons why better movie seats should not cost more

1. **It shouldn't be up to movie theaters to decide which seats are the best.**
2. **People should be equal when they go to the movies. Those with more money shouldn't get a privileged spot.**
3. **Tiered pricing systems might separate moviegoers, which would interfere with the fun of seeing a film together.**

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked if the school day should be shorter. While 59% of you said class hours should be cut, 41% want to leave the schedule alone.



What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote YES if you think better movie seats should cost more or NO if you don't. We'll publish the results in our next issue.

The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.

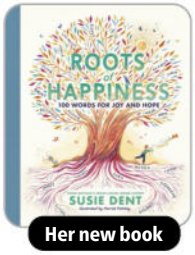
GETTY IMAGES

A love for language

***The Week Junior* contributor Susie Dent brings the history of words to life.**

Susie Dent, who writes *The Week Junior*'s "Word of the Week" (p4), has created a career out of discovering the origin of English words and sharing what she learns with others. Known as the "Human Dictionary," she told *The Week Junior* that she "always hopes to inspire a love of words in others."

Dent, who lives in the UK, is a lexicographer (person who works with or writes dictionaries) and an etymologist. She said etymologists are "detectives who hunt down clues about the origins of words and dig around for evidence of their use."



Her new book

While growing up in Surrey, in southeast England, Dent was drawn to words. As a young child, she liked reading the writing on shampoo bottles in the bathtub. After studying modern languages at Somerville College in England, she came to the US to earn a master's degree in German from Princeton University in New Jersey. Dent returned to the UK for her first job, working on French, German, and Spanish dictionaries at Oxford University Press.

In addition to writing for *The Week Junior*, Dent has appeared in movies and on TV. Since 1992, she has been the resident word expert on the popular British game show *Countdown*. She is a best-selling author whose newest title, *Roots of Happiness,* features 100 words about joy and hope and will be released on October 5.

Dent encourages kids to look for the excitement in dictionaries. "Once you dive in and chart the journeys of the words we use every day, I promise you'll be drawn into a world of magic and surprise!" she said.

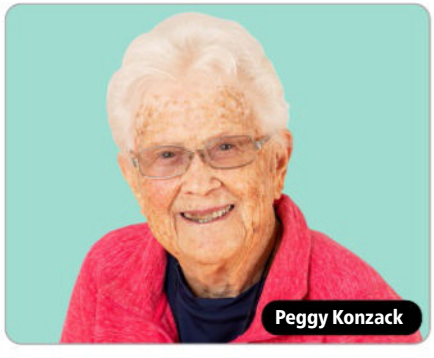
Susie Dent

DID YOU KNOW?
The first volume of the Oxford English Dictionary was published in February 1884.

Music icon mourned

Clarence Avant, a pioneering music executive who nurtured the careers of major Black artists, died on August 13 at age 92. Born in North Carolina, Avant got his start working at a jazz club in New Jersey. He signed singer-songwriter Bill Withers, promoted pop star Janet Jackson, and advised producer Diddy. Besides artists, Avant worked with sports stars like boxer Muhammad Ali and politicians including former President Barack Obama. In 2021, he was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

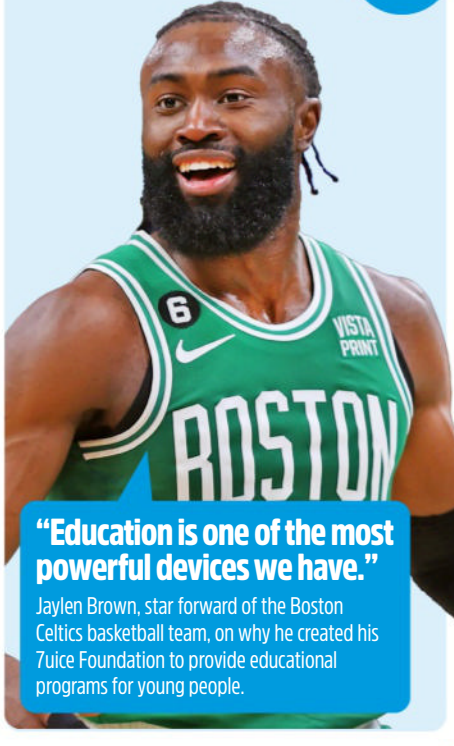
Clarence Avant


Peggy Konzack

Teaching for decades

Peggy Konzack, age 102, has been teaching swim classes at the YMCA in Douglas County, Oregon, for more than 50 years. In 1968, she was swimming there with friends when she was offered a position to teach an infant swim class. At the time, she was raising two children, studying to be a hairstylist, and had no prior experience with water instruction. She accepted the job, earned a teaching certificate, and has been helping infants and toddlers learn to swim ever since. Konzack told *People* magazine she will keep doing it for as long as she can. "It makes me happy," she said.

OVERHEARD



"Education is one of the most powerful devices we have."
Jaylen Brown, star forward of the Boston Celtics basketball team, on why he created his 7uice Foundation to provide educational programs for young people.

GETTY IMAGES (3); COURTESY OF YMCA OF DOUGLAS COUNTY OREGON

Whale sharks are a protected species.

Turtles' ancient routines

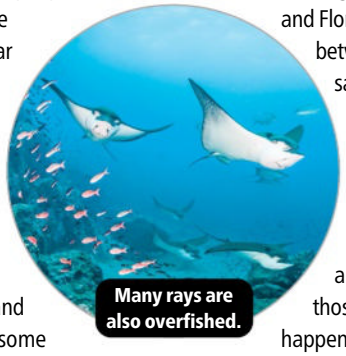
Experts knew that green sea turtles in the Mediterranean Sea like to return to their favorite spots to feed and lay eggs. Now, by studying ancient bones found off the coast of North Africa, they have learned that the species is still visiting the same seagrass meadows their ancestors did 2,700 to 4,700 years ago.

A sea turtle

DNA tests could save sharks

In films and TV shows, police investigators "dust" crime scenes for fingerprints to catch criminals. Now conservationists (people who work to protect animals and the environment) are using a similar method to tackle the illegal overfishing of sharks and rays.

Overfishing is when too many of a particular type of fish are caught, putting that species in danger. Many sharks and rays are killed because of a high demand—and a high price—for their fins. In some countries, the fins are used as an ingredient in shark fin soup, which some people believe can cure certain illnesses.


Many rays are also overfished.

About 100 species of sharks and rays are protected by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), an agreement between 184 countries to limit sales of wildlife that may be at risk of dying out. CITES has teams of people who visit ports and fish factories to look for evidence of protected species being illegally caught and sold. The idea is to punish those responsible and stop it from happening, but finding evidence is difficult. If a fish is already cut up and ready for sale, it's hard to tell which species it was. Often, fish are sold before inspectors arrive.

Scientists have come up with a process that analyzes "fish dust"—tiny traces of fish that get left on the floor at ports and factories, even after the fish are no longer there. Using a process called metabarcoding, they examine the DNA (chemical that carries all the information about a living thing's body and characteristics) in the dust and can tell if the DNA is from a protected species.

The scientists tested the method in Indonesia, where many sharks and rays are caught and sold. They studied dust from seven sites and found evidence of 61 species of sharks and rays. More than 80% of them were CITES-protected species. Dr. Andhika Prasetyo, the scientist who led the research, hopes the new method will be helpful in protecting endangered sea life.

PLACE OF THE WEEK

Mount Rainier, Washington

Mount Rainier National Park is one of the oldest national parks in the US. Mount Rainier, which rises to 14,000 feet above sea level, is an active volcano that has not had a major eruption in 500 years. It has more glacier ice (snow that thickens over time) than any other mountain in the lower 48 states (all the states except Alaska and Hawaii). Visitors can find 14 species of amphibians, five species of reptiles, 182 species of birds, 14 species of native fish, and 65 species of mammal—from big black bears and elk to little moles and marmots. Find out more at nps.gov/mora.

A marmot eating lupine flowers

HORSE HISTORY
Cave paintings in Spain from thousands of years ago show animals that look like Przewalski's horses.

Przewalski's horses in Spain

Herd of horses helps prevent wildfires

A herd of Przewalski's horses is being introduced to the Iberian Highlands in Spain, with the hope that the animals will be able to help prevent wildfires.

The Iberian Highlands is a mountainous region where many juniper, oak, and pine trees grow. Rising temperatures dry out the plants, causing them to catch fire very easily, so wildfires are often a problem. The horses' job is to eat dry leaves and undergrowth, which will slow the spread of fires.

The Przewalski's herd is from a nature reserve in France. There are three males and seven females, and the plan is to introduce more over time. Przewalski's, known as "the last truly wild horse," are an ancient and endangered breed. In the 1960s, the horses became extinct in the wild, but they have since been reintroduced to parts of China, France, Kazakhstan, and Mongolia.

Around the world, similar ideas are being used to tackle wildfires. Goats have been grazing in the forest of Bosques de Chacay in Chile since 2017, and traditional breeds of cattle and horses have been reintroduced in Portugal.

Animal of the week: Guam kingfisher

These birds are originally from the Pacific Island of Guam, but they died out in the wild after predatory snakes were introduced. About 150 Guam kingfishers remain worldwide. Scientists plan to release four new chicks in the region.

- **LIFE SPAN:** 15 to 20 years in captivity
- **HABITAT:** In the past, all across Guam
- **DIET:** Small lizards and insects
- **SIZE:** About 8 inches long, 1.7 to 2.4 ounces
- **FUN FACT:** This bird's first call of the day is so regular that locals say it can be used to tell time.

Good week / Bad week

Scottish wildcats
"Highland tigers" are being saved from the brink of extinction. Four litters, totaling 11 kittens, were born at the Highland Wildlife Park in Scotland. They may be released into the wild as part of a project to grow the species' population.

Wolves in Spain
Wolves have lived in the Andalucía mountains in southern Spain for centuries, but experts have now declared them extinct in the region, mostly due to illegal hunting and habitat loss. About 2,000 wolves are left in the country overall.

ASK AN EXPERT: "Why do frogs croak?"
Jackson, 9, New York

Dr. Sarah Carotenuto
Professor, University of Arizona College of Veterinary Medicine

A green tree frog

Croaking is an extremely common noise for frogs, more frequently heard after rain. Sometimes, depending on the frog, croaking noises can be heard up to a mile away! Frogs mainly croak because they are looking for love. They croak to find a mate with whom to start a tadpole family.

Do you have a question for an animal expert? Send it to *hello@theweekjunior.com*. Find out more about the UA College of Veterinary Medicine at vetmed.arizona.edu.

ALAMY (2); GETTY IMAGES (3); ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (5)

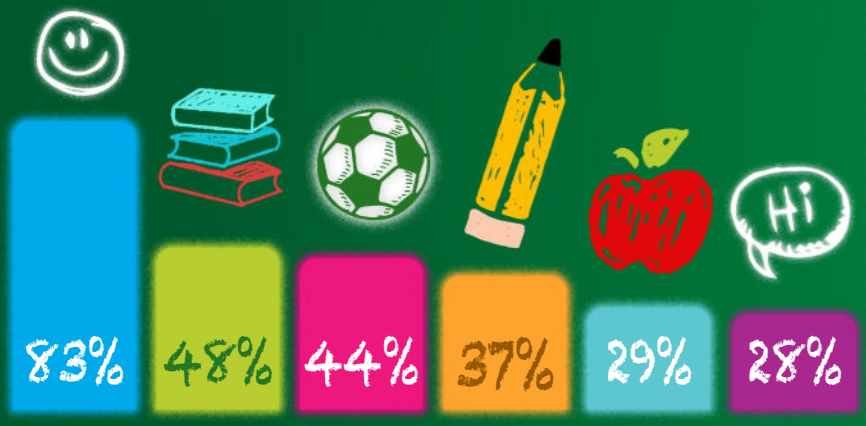
BACK TO SCHOOL 2023

You said it!

Millions of students have started a new school year, and the rest are getting ready to head back. We wanted to know: How are you feeling about it? What would you change if you could? What do you want teachers, parents, and other kids to know? We surveyed students ages 8 to 14 across the country to find out, and here's what you had to say.

What are you most excited about this school year?

It can be hard to say goodbye to summer, but you told us there's a lot you're looking forward to.



24% of kids bring a phone to school

What are your top concerns about this school year?

School can be stressful at times, and academics are a worry for some of you.

54% Getting homework done

53% Managing my classes

45% Getting good grades

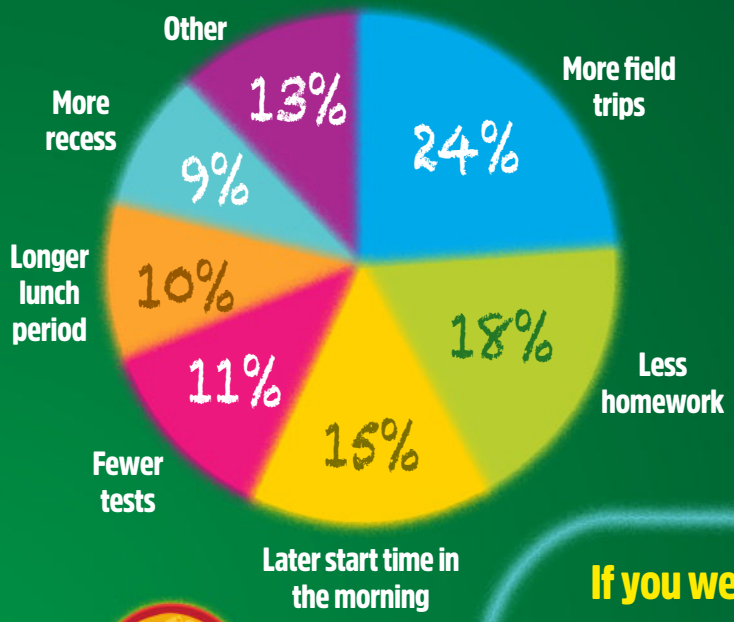
41% Making and keeping friends

36% Having time to enjoy after-school activities

GETTY IMAGES

What is the #1 way to improve school?

When we asked what would make school more enjoyable for you, these answers got the top votes.



99% of kids feel somewhat to very prepared for the year

If you were the principal, you would...

"Start a book club at the library."

"Make sure all kids have what they need for school so parents don't have to worry about affording it."

"Expel bullies. No one deserves to be bullied."

"Have more spirit days!"

You'd tell kids in the grade you were in last year...

"Don't be afraid to ask teachers for help."

"Branch out and make friends outside your usual group."

"Do a little homework each day instead of waiting till the last minute."

"When things get hard, don't give up—because you can do it!"

You wish teachers knew...

"Each student has a different learning style and needs patience."

"We are usually happier in class when we can sit near our friends."

"Kids need more breaks."

"We look up to teachers, so be the person you want your students to be."

You wish parents knew...

"We understand more than you know!"

"We may be struggling about something and not tell you about it."

"The honor roll isn't for everyone."

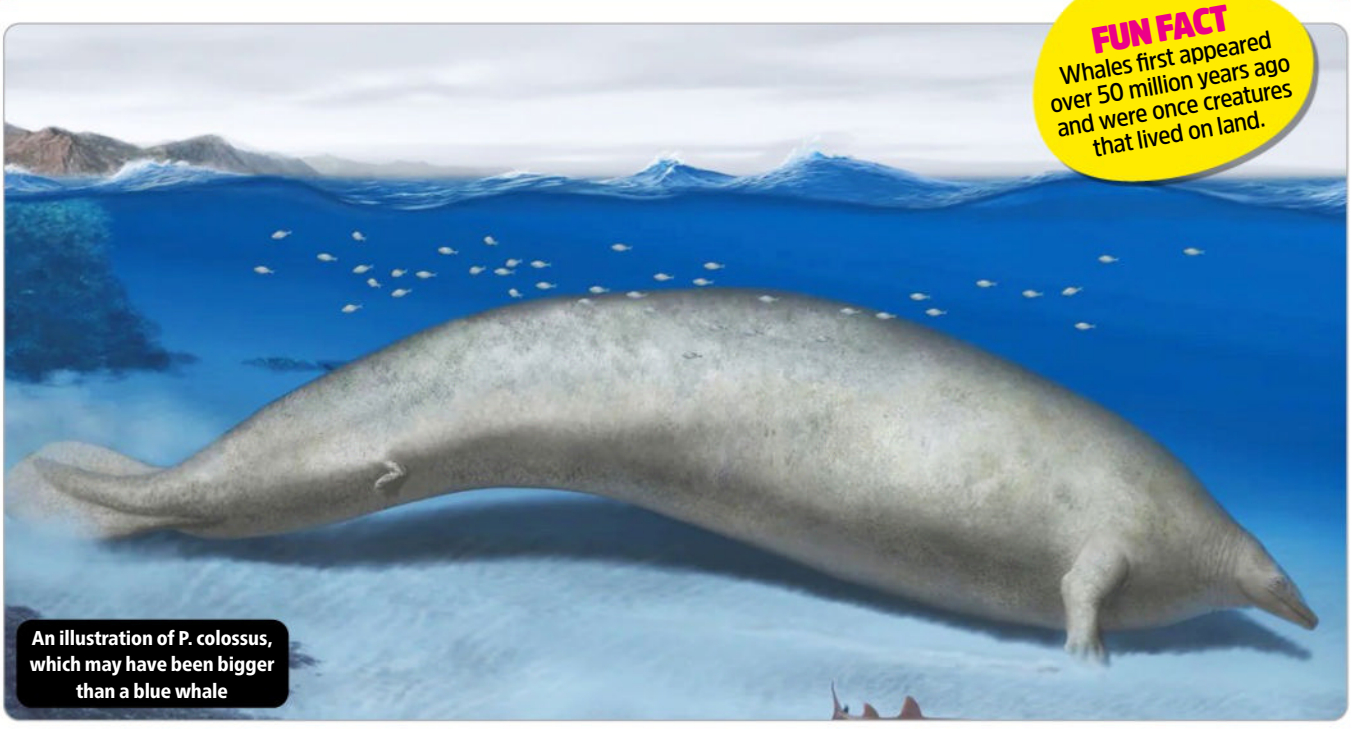
"We're always trying our best."

What would you put on the lunch menu?

You had lots of ideas, including more vegetarian and allergy-friendly options.

Sushi
Salad
Mac and cheese
Tacos
Edamame
Rice and beans
Veggie burgers
Fresh fruit
Grilled cheese
Noodles

FUN FACT
Whales first appeared over 50 million years ago and were once creatures that lived on land.



An illustration of P. colossus, which may have been bigger than a blue whale

Extinct whale set weight record

A whale that existed about 38 million years ago may have been the heaviest animal to ever live. An international team of scientists believes the species Perucetus colossus may have been bigger than today's blue whale, which is thought to be the largest animal ever.

Fossils (preserved impressions or traces of ancient plants and animals) of P. colossus were found in Peru more than 10 years ago. Researchers found four ribs, a piece of hipbone, and 13 vertebrae (spine bones). The vertebrae weighed about 330 pounds each—so much that scientists at first thought they were boulders.

One of the whale's vertebrae

The team of scientists compared P. colossus to living whales and other extinct whales. They estimated that it weighed between 94 and 375 tons and was about 66 feet long. By comparison, modern blue whales can weigh up to 200 tons and grow up to about 100 feet in length.

"Perucetus could have weighed almost two blue whales, three Argentinosaurs (a giant sauropod dinosaur), over 30 African bush elephants, and as many as 5,000 people," the study's lead author, Giovanni Bianucci, told CNN.

Much of P. colossus' weight may have come from its bones, which are thick and dense. Such heavy bones would have helped the whale stay at the bottom of the ocean floor, even when its lungs were full of air. Some modern marine animals, like manatees, have heavy bones for the same reason.

The team also thinks P. colossus had a unique shape. They said that even though it was huge, it had a very small head and short arms and legs. "It might have looked much weirder than we think," said study author Eli Amson.

However, other scientists are not convinced that P. colossus was bigger than a blue whale and argued that it's difficult to determine the weight of extinct animals based on incomplete skeletons. They do agree, though, that P. colossus was unusually large for its time.

The team who worked on the new study isn't sure what P. colossus ate to reach and sustain its large size. It may have eaten plants off the seafloor or animals that lived near the bottom. Finding and studying additional fossils, particularly a skull, would help them gather more information. They will continue searching for more fossils in Peru.

The oldest jellyfish ever

A rendering of a prehistoric jellyfish

Scientists at the Royal Ontario Museum in Canada have identified the oldest species of swimming jellyfish ever found. The species, named Burgessomedusa phasmiformis, lived more than 500 million years ago. The species was identified from fossils found in the Burgess Shale, an area in the Canadian Rockies famous for containing fossils, in the 1980s and 1990s.

It's rare for jellyfish to be preserved as fossils because their bodies are about 95% water, but these fossils were remarkably well preserved. The newly discovered species was nearly 8 inches long, with a saucer-shaped body and more than 90 tentacles. Jellyfish belong to a group of animals that is one of the oldest to exist on Earth.

Ancient Roman concrete was made to fix itself

Ancient Rome was the center of a powerful empire for more than 600 years, starting around 200 BCE. Many buildings constructed back then are still standing. Scientists think that's because they were made with a concrete that fixes its own cracks.

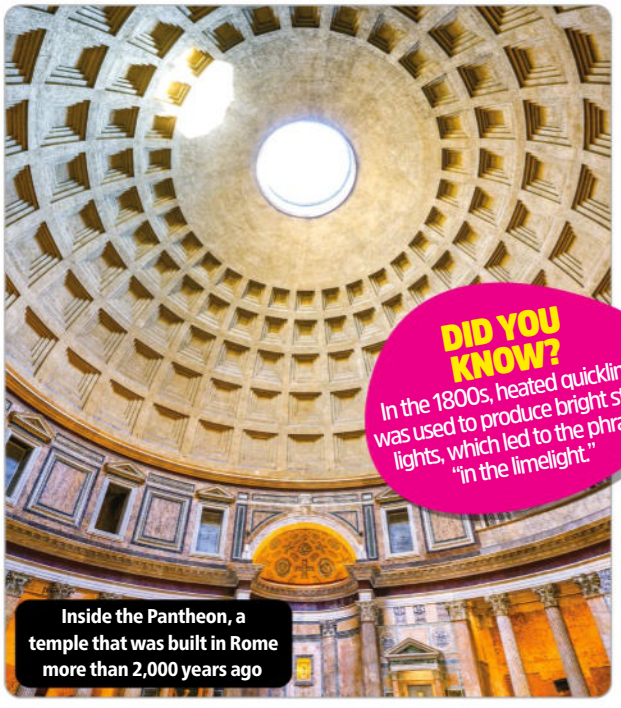
Modern reinforced concrete has steel rods in it, but ancient Romans didn't have that technology. Instead, they made concrete using a mixture of water, volcanic ash, and lime, a material that comes from limestone (a type of rock). This concrete had small lime clasts (chunks) in it.

The Pantheon has a concrete dome.

It was once thought that the clasts were there because the concrete hadn't been mixed well or had cheap ingredients. But researcher Admir Masic found it difficult to believe that Roman builders would be so careless.

Masic and his team used special equipment to study the concrete and found that it was made with an ingredient called quicklime using a process called "hot mixing." This process caused very particular chemical reactions that would have created the clasts and made the concrete set faster than normal.

The team determined that when water gets into the cracks, it reacts with the clasts to produce a sort of stone goo. This dries into a hard substance that glues the cracks together again. They hope to make a modern version of the ancient concrete that lasts longer and has a reduced environmental impact.



Inside the Pantheon, a temple that was built in Rome more than 2,000 years ago

DID YOU KNOW?
In the 1800s, heated quicklime was used to produce bright stage lights, which led to the phrase "in the limelight."

Amazon One's palm scanner

Pay for groceries with a quick palm scan

Paying for groceries at Whole Foods will soon be as easy as waving your hand. Amazon, which owns the grocery chain, said customers will be able to pay with a palm scan at all Whole Foods locations in the US.

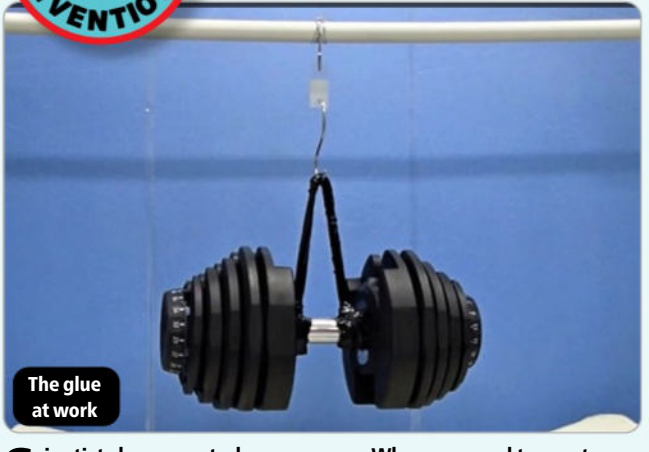
To use the service, called Amazon One, shoppers set up an account and create a scan of their hand. The scan captures details and distinct features on their palm to create a "signature." Because every person's palm is different, no two signatures are alike.

A shopper's specific palm signature is linked to their Amazon One account. When they are in the store, they simply scan their palm at the register to pay for items. They don't need a wallet and don't have to interact with a cashier.

Amazon One is currently available in stores in Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma. Amazon said it will be available at more than 500 Whole Foods locations by the end of the year.

AMAZING INVENTION

Reusable glue that binds and releases



The glue at work

Scientists have created a reusable glue that sticks and releases on command. Researchers at Japan's National Institute for Material Science added an ingredient to the glue called caffeic acid, which responds to different wavelengths of light.

When exposed to one type of light, the glue creates a firm, lasting hold. When exposed to a different type of light, the glue releases. It doesn't lose its ability to adhere once the bond is broken, allowing it to be used again. The glue may even work underwater, the team said.

GETTY IMAGES (2); AMAZON; NIMS; ON LEFT PAGE: ALBERTO GENNARI; CHRISTIAN MCCALL; GIOVANNI BIANUCCI

Photos of the week

Delicious delicacy
A bread shop in China displays mooncakes, a traditional treat.

Striking symmetry
An ancient temple on a lake peninsula in China is seen from overhead.

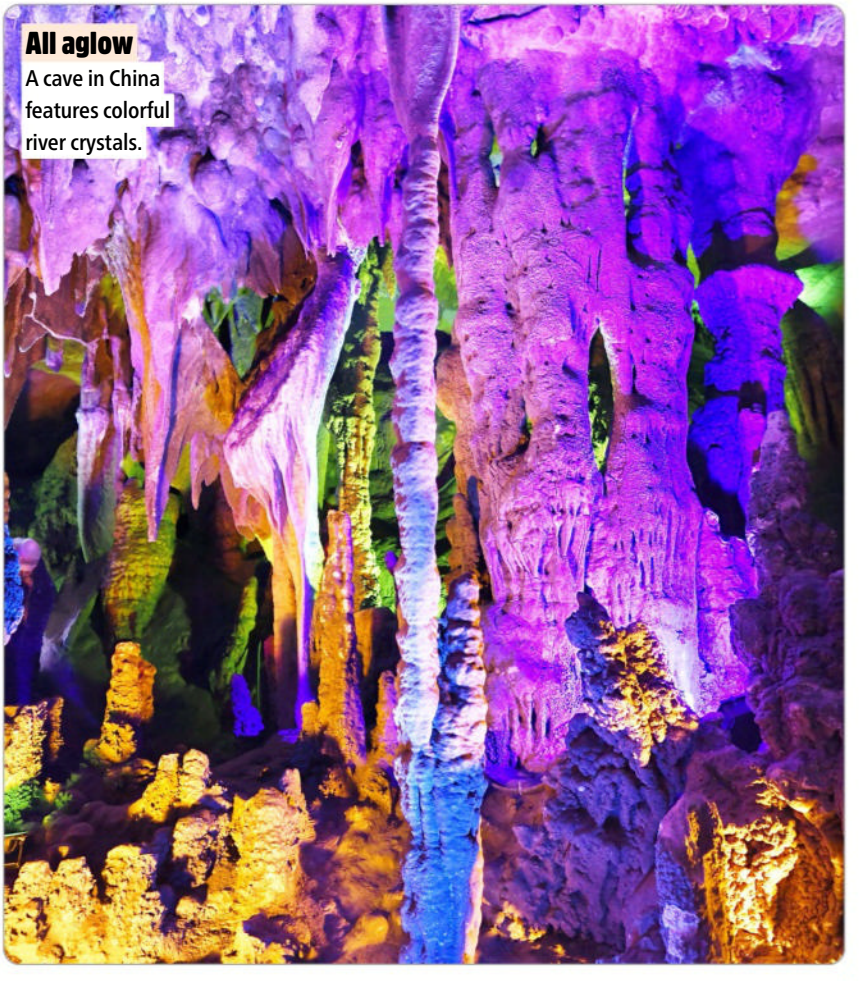
GETTY IMAGES (5); AP

Photos of the week

Ready, set, go
Paddleboarders line up at the start of an annual race in Russia.

Defying gravity
An athlete competes at a freestyle trampoline competition in the UK.

Happy dance
A parade marks the start of a festival in El Salvador.



All aglow
A cave in China features colorful river crystals.

The championship team celebrates.

FUN FACT
California has won the Little League Baseball World Series eight times, the most of any state.

Famous sculptures

Williamsport, Pennsylvania, is the birthplace of Little League. Its downtown features a group of 12 statues called *Bases Loaded* that honor the history of the sport. They are spread out over four street corners and depict a game in progress (above) and spectators.

California wins Little League Baseball series

From August 16 through August 27, players from the US and other countries gathered in South Williamsport, Pennsylvania, to compete in the Little League Baseball World Series (LLBWS). In a thrilling championship game, a team from El Segundo, California, beat Curacao, 6–5. The last time a team from California won the title was in 2011.

To qualify for the LLBWS, hundreds of teams made up of players ages 10 to 12 competed in local, state, and regional games. Eventually, 20 teams made the LLBWS, with 10 coming from the US and 10 from other countries. The US teams, which represented different regions, competed in one bracket, while the international teams played in the other. The winners from each side met in the championship.

Louis Lappe

The team from California did not have an easy time at the tournament. At the start, several of their players had a stomach virus. Later, the team lost a game to Texas. A second loss would have sent them home, but they went on to win three games in a row to make it to the US Championship game, where they played Texas again and won. Curacao, which represented the Caribbean, had been undefeated at this year's LLWBS. Last year, they lost in the final to Hawaii.

In the championship game, California got off to a strong start by scoring two runs in the bottom of the first inning. Curacao scored a run in the top of the third, but California answered back with two more runs. By the end of the fourth inning, they were up 5–1.

California's pitcher, Ollie Parks, had an excellent game, but he exited in the fifth inning after a one-out walk. Curacao then loaded the bases with two outs, and Nassir El-Ossais hit a grand slam home run to tie the score at 5–5.

In the bottom of the sixth, the game was still tied. California's Louis Lappe led off the inning, and he crushed the second pitch over the left field fence for a game-winning homer. It was his fifth home run of the tournament. "My mentality was just to get the next guy up, and if we kept doing that, we would've won either way," he said after the game. "But I'll take the homer."

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

TRACK AND FIELD

The World Athletics Championships ended on August 27 with the US team taking home 29 medals, the most of any country. Americans won 12 golds, with sprinter Noah Lyles earning three. Other American winners included Laulauga Tausaga in women's discus and Ryan Crouser in men's shot put. US pole vaulter Katie Moon and Australian Nina Kennedy agreed to share a gold after they were unable to break a tie.

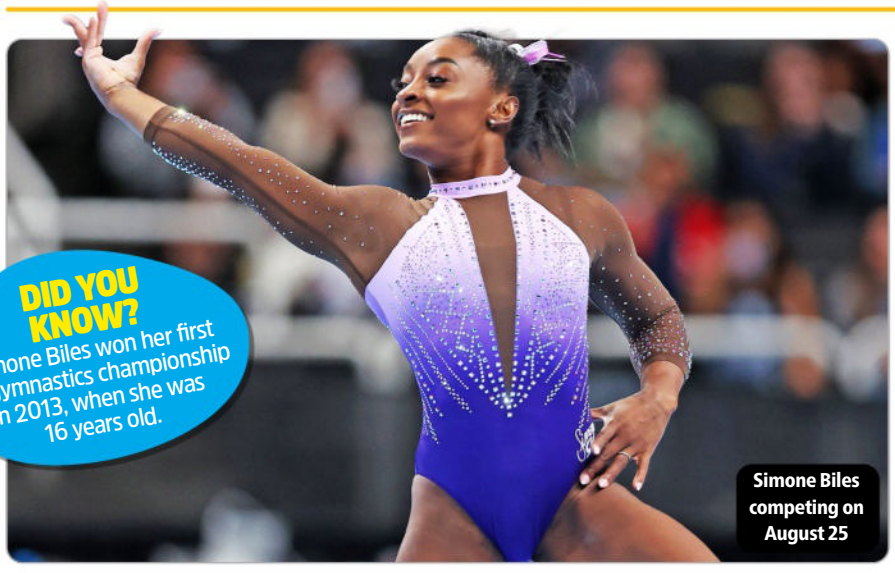
Ryan Crouser

BASKETBALL

Las Vegas Aces star A'ja Wilson racked up 53 points in a game against the Atlanta Dream on August 22, tying the WNBA scoring record for a single game. The Aces won, 112–100.

SOCCER

Lionel Messi of Inter Miami made his Major League Soccer regular season debut on August 26 in a 2–0 win over the New York Red Bulls. Messi scored his team's second goal. The win moved Inter Miami out of last place.



DID YOU KNOW?
Simone Biles won her first US gymnastics championship in 2013, when she was 16 years old.

Simone Biles competing on August 25

Historic eighth US title for Simone Biles

The US Gymnastics Championships were held in San Jose, California, from August 24 through August 27. It featured the country's top male and female gymnasts. The senior women's all-around champion was Simone Biles, and the senior men's all-around champion was Asher Hong.

Biles made history by becoming the first male or female American gymnast to win eight national all-around titles. She had been tied for seven wins with Alfred Jochim, who set that record in 1933. At age 26, Biles is also the oldest woman to ever win the US title. It was her second meet since taking a two-year break from competing.

The women's events are the vault, uneven bars, floor exercise, and balance beam. There are event medals, and the all-around title goes to the gymnast with the highest overall combined score. Biles won gold on the beam and floor plus a bronze on bars. Although her vaults earned the top scores, she did one vault instead of two on the second day, so she did not qualify for a medal. In the all-around, she beat silver medalist Shilese Jones by nearly four points and bronze medalist Leanne Wong by more than seven points.

On the men's side, the events are floor, high bar, parallel bars, pommel horse, still rings, and vault. Hong came in first only on the vault but still managed to win the all-around. He edged out silver medalist Khoi Young by nearly 1.5 points and bronze medalist Fred Richard by about 1.6 points.

Afterward, the medalists and other gymnasts were named to the US senior national team. They will compete at the upcoming 2023 World Championships and Pan American Games.

COACH OF THE WEEK

Coach's Name: **Serwaah Fordjour**

Team: **Pacific Northwest Soccer Club**

"I am so lucky to call her my coach. She is tough but makes sure we have fun and love soccer. I have ADHD, and she has patience and understands how to coach me. Not many coaches take time to learn how to work with players individually. She does! Serwaah helps me to not overthink new moves, feel good about myself, and be a better player. She also is open about what it takes for girls to be successful in soccer." Lena, 12, Washington

To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to *hello@theweekjunior.com.* Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.

SPOTLIGHT ON...

Kaitlyn Dobler

AGE: 21 SPORT: SWIMMING
TEAM: UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Jumping in My grandparents had a lake cabin, so when I was young, my parents had me take swimming lessons to be safe there. I loved the water. I'm very clumsy on land, so with swimming I felt like I could actually be coordinated.

College choice I was looking for a good academic program and a good athletic program, and my college is known for both. Also, I want to study engineering, and we have an astronautical engineering program here, which I found really cool.

Meet mentality No matter who I'm racing, I try to get up on the block knowing I'm going to win. Then I try to follow through on that by having all the confidence in the world, even if it's completely ridiculous.

Moving forward Losing happens, and I think the biggest difference between good swimmers and great swimmers is being able to bounce back from a loss and say, "OK, on to the next one." My coaches have said that too.

Major moment I won the national championship in the 100-year breaststroke last year. I touched the wall, thinking I'd gotten second, but before I looked at the scoreboard, I knew I'd won because I heard my teammates cheering.

Big goals In college, I want to go after the national championship again, as well as the NCAA record. After that, I'm looking at the Olympics and hoping I will qualify for them.

GETTY IMAGES (3); ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (2); AHVARCHITECTS; PERFECTGAME.ORG

FUN FACT
In 2022, a 17-foot-high puppet named Percy the Porcupine was created for the San Diego Zoo.

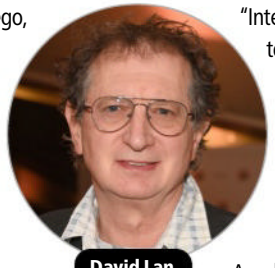
Little Amal in Toronto, Canada, in June

Famous giant puppet heads to US

Little Amal, who was created to raise awareness about refugees, kicks off a 35-city American tour on September 7.

A 12-foot-tall puppet who symbolizes refugees (people who have been forced to leave their homes to escape danger) is embarking on a 6,000-mile, 35-stop journey across the US. Little Amal's trip begins in Boston, Massachusetts, on September 7, and ends in San Diego, California, on November 5.

Little Amal is imagined to be a 10-year-old girl from Syria. A civil war has been going on there for 12 years, and more than 14 million people have fled the country. *Amal Walks Across America* is a type of play, and her character "is one of the millions of child refugees who have fled danger and are in search of safety and hope in the land of opportunity—the United States," producer David Lan told *The Week Junior*. Since 2021, Little Amal has visited 13 countries.


David Lan

"Interacting with Amal brings people together and unites us all under a common goal: to treat everyone, no matter who they are or where they come from, with equal respect and acceptance," Lan said. Amal's name means "hope" in Arabic.

Three puppeteers control Little Amal's movements. There is one for each of her arms, plus one inside her torso who walks on stilts. That person also controls her head, face, and eyes. Nine puppeteers will take turns working during the US trip.

Little Amal will stop in towns and cities across the US, where she will connect with local artists, participate in more than 100 events, and meet all types of people. At the US–Mexico border, she will "learn about the migration of people from Latin America into the US," Lan said. He told *The Week Junior* that Little Amal's team hopes that all who meet her "put themselves in her big shoes and sympathize with the challenges so many refugees around the world face daily."

3 well-known puppets

Howdy Doody

This marionette starred in a hit children's series from 1947 to 1960. The US had 48 states at the time he was made, and he was given 48 freckles to represent them.

Chinese dragon

Dragon rod puppets are often part of Chinese New Year festivities. People hold and move the rods to make it look like the dragon is dancing. Having a dragon with an odd number of joints is thought to be lucky.

Lamb Chop

Award-winning puppeteer and ventriloquist Shari Lewis (pictured) created this sweet sock puppet, who was introduced in 1957. The pair went on to star in popular TV shows for kids.

DID YOU KNOW?
The last time actors and writers went on strike at the same time was in 1960.

White Bird

Strikes put movie releases on hold

Television and film writers and actors are on strike (stopped working in protest), and as a result, many movie releases have been delayed. One film that has been affected is *White Bird*, which is based on author R.J. Palacio's best-selling novel of the same name. It was supposed to be in theaters across the country on August 25, but now it is on hold until an unspecified date.

The reason for the strike has to do with disagreements the main actors' and writers' unions (groups that represents workers in a particular industry) are having with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP), which represents companies that make movies and shows. One big issue workers are worried about is the possibility that studios could use artificial intelligence to create scripts or digitally replicate an actor's voice, likeness, or performance.

Actor Jason Momoa plays Aquaman.

During the strike, union members are not allowed to work on or promote any projects. That means they can't do interviews, which are an important part of building excitement before a release. In addition to *White Bird*, upcoming films with delayed releases include *Avatar 3* and two Marvel *Avengers* films. Meanwhile, movies and TV shows that were in production, such as the shows *Abbott Elementary* and *Bunk'd* and the films *Beetlejuice 2* and *Spider-Man: Beyond the Spider-Verse,* have been halted. One major upcoming release, *Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom*, a sequel to the hit film *Aquaman*, is still set to come out on December 20, but that could also be delayed.

Industry experts have estimated that California could lose an estimated $4 billion due to the work stoppage. When *The Week Junior* went to press on August 29, talks were ongoing.

READER RECOMMENDS

Ultimate Spider-Man *(Disney+)*

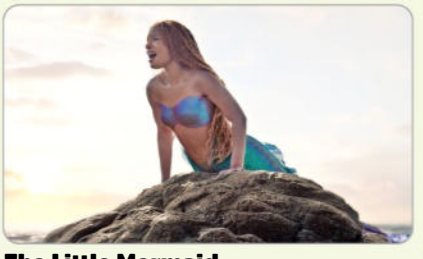
"I like this series because it is a Spider-Man show made for kids. It includes characters like Nick Fury and the Beetle. In the first episode, Spider-Man starts working with the agency S.H.I.E.L.D. and a team of other heroes: Nova, Iron Fist, White Tiger, and Power Man. Throughout the seasons, Spider-Man's team gets more and more members, including Agent Anti-Venom. The show is really fun and really funny. I watch it every Saturday morning, hoping the new episode includes Doctor Octopus. My 5-year-old brother watches it too, and we think it's appropriate for all ages." Jerome, 10, New York

Do you have a film or TV show to recommend to other kids? Send your review to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST

I Am Groot
(Disney+)

Groot, the lovable tree-like creature from Marvel's *Guardians of the Galaxy* films, is back in five new funny shorts about his adventures growing up. Baby Groot will build a giant robot snowman and meet colorful creatures. He is voiced, as always, by actor Vin Diesel.



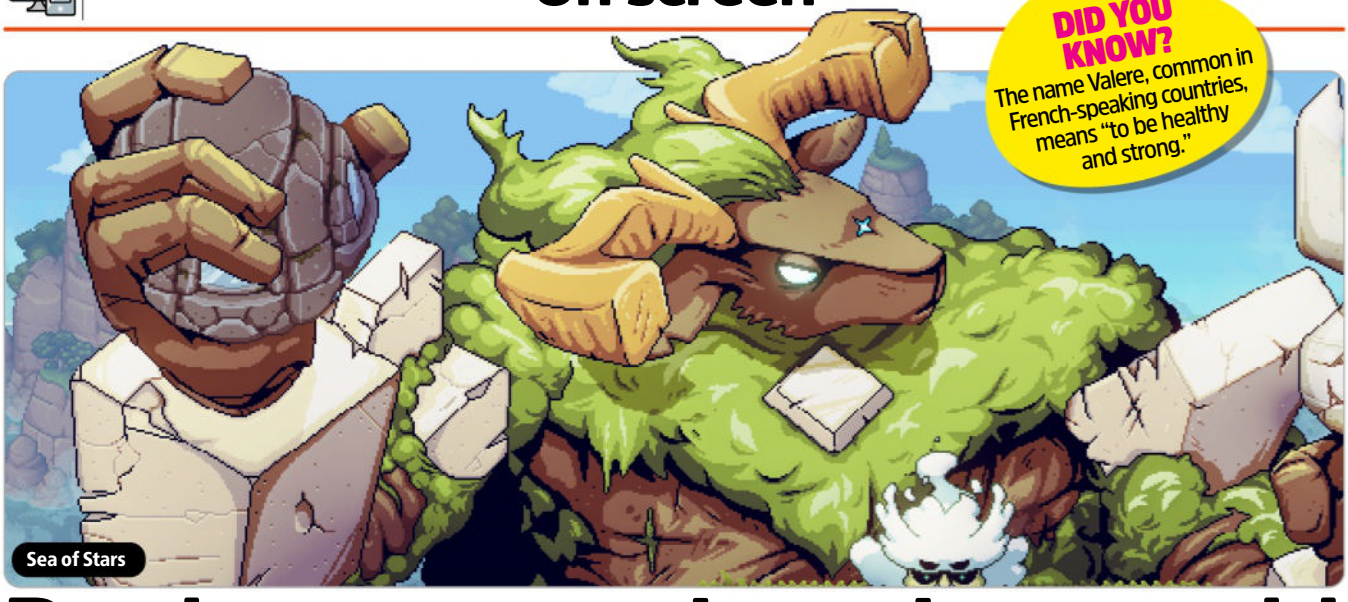
The Little Mermaid
(Disney+)

The live-action remake of the animated musical begins streaming on September 6. In the film, teen mermaid Ariel (Halle Bailey) falls for a human prince. She makes a deal with evil sea witch Ursula to live on land, but the deal ends up threatening the water world and Ariel's life.

America Outdoors with Baratunde Thurston
(PBS.org) (PBS) September 6, 8 pm ET

In this series, writer and activist Baratunde Thurston learns about how people in the US interact with nature. In the season two premiere, he spends time in Florida's Suwannee River with a biologist, a turtle, and a friendly rat snake.

LARRY HORRICKS/LIONSGATE; GETTY IMAGES; MARVEL STUDIOS (2); DISNEY ENTERPRISES, INC.; COURTESY OF PART2 PICTURES/TWIN CITIES PBS; ON LEFT PAGE: TAKU KUMABE/THE WALK PRODUCTIONS; GETTY IMAGES (4)



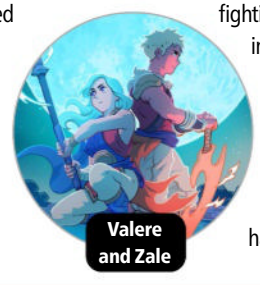
Sea of Stars

Battle monsters in a giant world

Sea of Stars is a new turn-based role-playing game (RPG). It is out now for the Nintendo Switch, Xbox systems, PlayStation platforms, and PC.

The game is a prequel to a hit game from 2018 called The Messenger, but you don't have to know about that game to enjoy Sea of Stars. The new game revolves around two young Solstice Warriors: Valere and Zale. Together, they wield the power of the Sun and Moon, and they use what is called Eclipse Magic in a quest to defeat an evil alchemist. He creates monsters they have to fight along the way.

While Valere and Zale are the big stars, there are many other characters in the game, including their buddy Garl, a warrior cook. Players can control up to six characters, and a big team is necessary in a game this large. The action is set in mountains, jungles, temples, and other mystical locations.


Valere and Zale

Sea of Stars combines a classic game style with new advances in gameplay and technology. It uses a top-down camera, which provides a bird's-eye view of the action. This was once a common style in games with characters that are tiny but mighty, such as in The Legend of Zelda: A Link to the Past. The game has a turn-based movement and combat system, so instead of free-flowing fighting, players throw down one move at a time, similar to battles in Pokémon. Sea of Stars, however, adds action and fast-paced challenges to the battles. If you time your attacks and defenses right, you can score extra hit points and easily defeat enemies.

The game isn't just about fighting, though. It has a massive world filled with side quests. Characters can fish, cook, and even hang out in a tavern. It can be a dreamy adventure, but you have to be ready to take on monsters at a moment's notice.

PODCAST OF THE WEEK

TAI ASKS WHY

Major podcast platforms

Tai Poole, a curious teen from Canada, hosts this award-winning podcast. On the show, he speaks with experts as he tries to find answers to questions about science, animals, and life. Topics have included "Why do we laugh?" and "Are we alone in the universe?"

VIDEO OF THE WEEK

KINETIC SAND ASMR

tinyurl.com/TWJUS-KineticSand

In this video from the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC, the graphic painting *Shoot Six* by Sam Gilliam is re-created with kinetic sand. The sand is then carved, cut, and squished in a variety of mesmerizing ways while facts about Gilliam's style and art appear on the screen.

WEBSITE OF THE WEEK

BELUGA WHALES LIVE CAMS

tinyurl.com/TWJUS-Belugas

Every summer, Beluga whales migrate from the Arctic to Canadian waters. This Explore.org channel is devoted to the animals and features underwater video from a camera on a boat in Hudson Bay. You'll be able to see highlight footage and screenshots of the white whales in action.

SABOTAGE STUDIO (2); CBC/RADIO-CANADA; NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART VIA YOUTUBE; EXPLORE ANNENBERG LLC

OUR SEPTEMBER BOOK CLUB PICK

Wrecker

By Carl Hiaasen

(Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers)

On his way home from fishing, Wrecker spots a group of men on a speedboat that is stuck in a sandbar off the coast of Key West, Florida. The leader, who calls himself Silver Mustache, asks Wrecker if he will use his boat to tow theirs. But the speedboat is too heavy. Silver Mustache refuses Wrecker's offer to call the Coast Guard for help. In fact, he wants Wrecker to forget they ever met. Believing they're smugglers, Wrecker hopes to never see Silver Mustache again either. But then Silver Mustache turns up in a graveyard where Wrecker works cleaning a tombstone. Silver Mustache is keeping tabs on Wrecker for some reason. Days later, Wrecker and his friend go fishing and discover that Silver Mustache's boat has sunk. They dive in to examine the boat and discover the loot—it's not what they imagined. It also seems that the smugglers may have survived after the boat sank. Will Wrecker be able to bring the men to justice and free himself from Silver Mustache? With subplots about the pandemic, racism, and the environment, this book is more complex than the author's Newbery Honor–winning *Hoot*. *Ages 12 and up*

WIN A BOOK!

We're giving away one signed copy of *Wrecker*.

For a chance to win, send your name and address to *contests@theweekjunior.com* with Wrecker in the subject line. Enter by midnight on September 22. See theweekjunior.com/terms for complete rules.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR YOUR BOOK CLUB

Packed with twists, thrills, and a big cast of characters, *Wrecker* gives you a lot to talk about with friends and family who have also read the book. Here are some questions to get the conversation rolling:

Would you have accepted money from Silver Mustache? Why or why not?

What positive and negative qualities does Wrecker have?

How does the author describe Key West, Florida?

What adult character do you like the most? Why?

Which parts of the book do you think are funny?

Why do you think the author included facts and history about the Florida Keys in the fictional storyline?

What is the main idea of the environmental subplot? Do you agree with it or not?

JOIN *THE WEEK JUNIOR*'S BOOK CLUB

Watch a special video Carl Hiaasen created for *The Week Junior* and learn more about how our monthly book club works at kids.theweekjunior.com/bookclub.

Ask the author

Once an investigative reporter for the *Miami Herald* newspaper, Carl Hiaasen now writes books for kids and adults. In 2003, his novel *Hoot* was named a Newbery Honor book. *The Week Junior* talked to him about *Wrecker*, his latest release.

Do you live in Key West, Florida?

No, my house is in another part of Florida. But I traveled to Key West to research this book, including visiting the city's famous cemeteries. After reading the book, I hope kids come away with a sense of the unique vibe of Key West.

Is it more fun to write about good or bad characters?

Bad guys are interesting to write about, but I liked Wrecker so much that I had more fun developing his character than the bad guys.

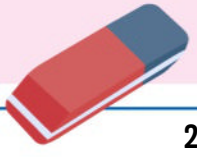
Is there a common thread in your books for young readers?

Going back to *Hoot*, my books have strong characters who take stands to protect the environment. They don't just sit there and do nothing when a place they care about is being endangered.

What made you become a newspaper reporter?

When I graduated from college, I didn't think I'd get books published without any experience, so I became a reporter at a newspaper first.

What was your



BOOK: COURTESY OF PUBLISHER; AUTHOR: ELENA SEIBERT; GETTY IMAGES

BACK TO SCHOOL 2023

Easy, tasty recipes to try

From breakfast to lunch, plus snacks and treats, these dishes are simple to whip up before or after school.

COOKIES AND CREAM CRISPY TREATS

WARNING! Ask an adult's permission before using a knife, mixer, oven, stovetop, or blender for any of these recipes.

Ingredients

- 1½ cups mini store-bought cookies such as sandwich cookies, chocolate chip, or fudge striped, halved or quartered
- 4 tablespoons salted butter
- 6 cups marshmallows
- 6 cups crispy rice cereal
- ¼ teaspoon vanilla extract

FUN FACT The word "cookie" comes from the Dutch word *koekje*, meaning "little cake."

Instructions

1. Place ⅓ cup of the cookies in a small bowl. Set aside. Line an 8-inch square baking dish with parchment paper. Spritz with cooking spray.
2. In a large pot over low heat, melt the butter. Add the marshmallows and melt, stirring frequently, until the mixture is smooth. Add half the rice cereal and the remaining cookies. Stir, then add the remaining cereal and vanilla.
3. Stir until evenly coated, then place in the prepared dish. Press into the pan, then top the mixture with the remaining cookies. Place a sheet of parchment on top and smooth evenly, taking care not to press the treats with too much pressure. Let cool completely before slicing into squares. Makes 9 bars.

PANCAKE SQUARES

Ingredients

- Cooking spray
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 tablespoons baking powder
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 2¼ cups milk
- 2 large eggs, lightly beaten
- 8 tablespoons butter, melted, plus more for serving
- 1 banana, sliced
- ½ cup blueberries
- Maple syrup, for serving

Instructions

1. Heat oven to 400°F. Generously coat a half sheet pan with cooking spray or softened butter.
2. In a large bowl, mix together the flour, baking powder, and cinnamon. This is your dry mixture.
3. In a separate bowl, combine the milk with the eggs. Mix in the melted butter. This is your wet mixture.
4. Make a hole in the center of the dry mixture and pour in wet mixture. Stir to form a batter. (Batter may be slightly lumpy.)
5. Slowly pour the batter onto sheet pan and spread evenly.
6. Arrange bananas and blueberries on top as you choose.
7. Using oven mitts, put the sheet pan in the oven. Bake 16 to 18 minutes or until golden brown. Use mitts to take it out.
8. Ask an adult to help you cut the pancake into 12 squares. Serve warm with butter and maple syrup. Freeze leftover squares for later in the week. Makes 12 servings.

JOY HOWARD; ERICA CLARK FOR STONE KITCHEN CREATIVE, ON RIGHT PAGE: JOY HOWARD; AMY PALANJIAN

EVERYTHING BAGEL RICOTTA DIP

Ingredients

- ¾ cup whole milk ricotta
- 4-ounce package goat cheese, softened
- 1 small clove garlic, grated
- ½ teaspoon lemon zest
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon olive oil, plus more for drizzling
- Kosher salt
- Black pepper
- 1 tablespoon everything bagel seasoning
- Fresh cut vegetables, for serving

Instructions

1. Place the ricotta, goat cheese, garlic, lemon zest and juice, and olive oil in a large bowl. Add a few pinches of salt and pepper.
2. Use a hand mixer set at medium speed to blend the mixture until light and fluffy.
3. Transfer the dip to a small bowl, then use the back of a spoon to make a swirl in the top. Sprinkle with the everything bagel seasoning and drizzle with olive oil. Serve with cut vegetables. Makes 4 servings.

EGG BITES

WOW! People in the US consume an average of 278 eggs per person each year.

Ingredients

- Nonstick spray
- ½ cup broccoli
- ½ cup cottage cheese
- ¼ cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 2 eggs
- ¼ teaspoon onion powder
- 2 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese

Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 350° F. Grease a muffin pan with 12 mini muffin cups with nonstick spray.
2. Place the broccoli on a cutting board, and with an adult's help, chop broccoli into small pieces with a knife.
3. Place the chopped broccoli in a medium-size bowl. Add the cottage cheese, cheddar cheese, eggs, onion powder, and Parmesan cheese. Stir together with a spoon.
4. Spoon the mixture into the 12 muffin cups. Pour mixture into each cup almost to the top.
5. Using potholders, place the muffin pan in the oven. Bake for 18 to 20 minutes or until the muffins are golden brown. Remove pan with potholders.
6. Let cool for 5 minutes before serving. Refrigerate leftovers in an airtight container for up to 3 days. Makes 12 muffins.

STRAWBERRY SMOOTHIE

Ingredients

- 1 cup milk
- 1 cup frozen strawberries
- ½ cup raw cauliflower pieces
- 1 tablespoon almond butter
- 1 tablespoon maple syrup or honey

Instructions

1. Gather all the ingredients for your smoothie and a blender.
2. Place the ingredients in the blender, and put the lid on firmly. Check with an adult before turning it on.
3. Turn the blender on at the slowest speed and blend. Slowly increase the speed to high.
4. If the mixture has a hard time blending, turn off the blender and be sure to unplug it, remove the lid, and stir with a wooden spoon. Put the lid back on, replug blender, and blend until smooth. Pour into glasses and enjoy. Serves 2.

OVERNIGHT OATS

Ingredients

- 1 cup old-fashioned oats
- ½ cup applesauce
- ½ cup plain Greek-style yogurt
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ½ cup milk
- Chopped apples, for serving
- Chopped walnuts, for serving
- Honey, for serving

DID YOU KNOW?
Oats were introduced in North America by Scottish settlers in 1602.

Instructions

1. Combine the oats, applesauce, yogurt, and cinnamon in a large bowl and mix well. Cover bowl with plastic wrap or aluminum foil, and refrigerate overnight. **Tip:** Greek yogurt works well in overnight oats because it's nice and thick. But you can use regular plain yogurt if you don't have the Greek kind.
2. The next morning, remove bowl from refrigerator. Stir milk into the oats to loosen them, then spoon oat mixture into bowls.
3. Warm in microwave if desired, then top with chopped apples, walnuts, and a drizzle of honey. Serves 2–4.

AMY PALANJIAN; ERICA CLARK FOR STONE KITCHEN CREATIVE; ON RIGHT PAGE: ERICA CLARK FOR STONE KITCHEN CREATIVE; JOY HOWARD

CULINARY CUSTOM
A North African tradition is to celebrate a new home or a holiday by making couscous, which symbolizes good luck.

COUSCOUS SALAD

Ingredients

- 3 cups water
- 2 cups pearl couscous
- ⅓ cup pine nuts
- 2 cloves garlic
- 1 cup basil leaves
- ½ cup olive oil
- ⅓ cup freshly grated Parmigiano Reggiano cheese
- Salt
- Pepper
- 1 pint cherry or grape tomatoes, halved
- ½ English cucumber, quartered
- 4 ounces bocconcini (small mozzarella balls), halved

Instructions

1. Bring 3 cups of water to a boil in a large pot. Add the couscous and cook according to package directions. Transfer to a large serving bowl.
2. Meanwhile, carefully toast the pine nuts in a toaster oven or dry skillet over medium heat until just starting to brown. Watch closely to avoid burning. Let cool slightly.
3. Pulse the garlic in a food processor to finely chop. Add the cooled pine nuts and basil leaves and pulse to combine. With the processor running, slowly drizzle in the olive oil, stopping to scrape down the sides as needed. Add the cheese and pulse to combine. Season with salt and pepper to taste.
4. Add the pesto to the bowl with the couscous and toss to coat. Add the tomatoes, cucumber, and mozzarella balls. Toss again. Spoon the salad into bowls and serve. Makes 4 servings.

SEASONED AFTER-SCHOOL SNACK MIX

Ingredients

- 3 cups mini pretzels
- 3 cups oyster crackers
- 4 tablespoons butter
- 1 teaspoon cider vinegar
- 1 teaspoon dried dill
- 1¼ teaspoons granulated garlic (or garlic powder)
- ½ teaspoon onion powder
- ¾ teaspoon smoked paprika
- 1¼ teaspoons salt
- ¼ teaspoon sugar
- 2 tablespoons plus two teaspoons of Parmesan cheese or nutritional yeast

Instructions

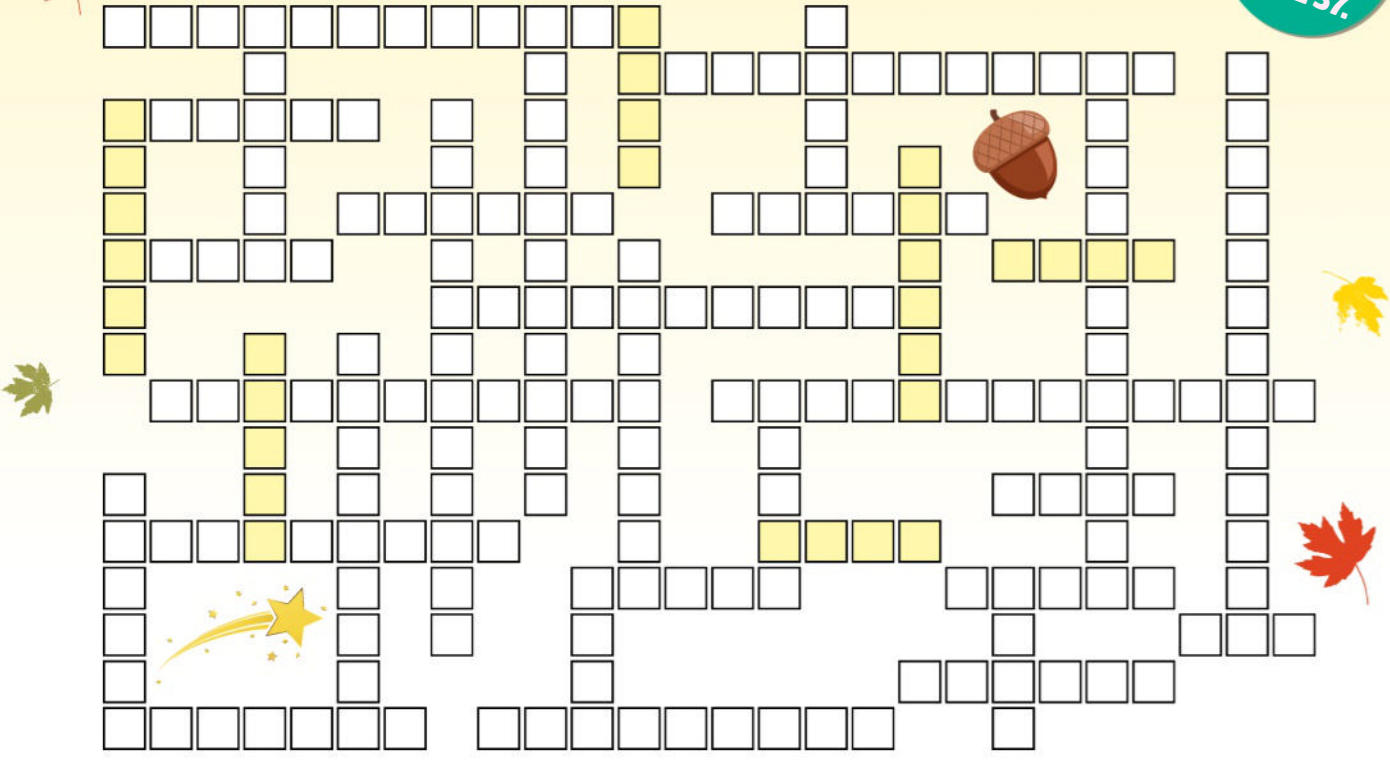
1. Heat oven to 250° F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
2. Put pretzels and crackers in a big bowl. In a saucepan, melt butter on low. Add vinegar, dill, garlic, onion powder, paprika, salt, sugar, and Parmesan or nutritional yeast and stir.
3. Pour mixture over pretzels and crackers. Stir gently to coat evenly. Spread on the prepared baking sheet and bake until golden and crisp, tossing every 15 minutes, for about 45 minutes. Let cool before serving. Serves 4.

Brain twisters and teasers

Super "fall" crisscross

Each of these things known for falling fits into this grid. Can you find where each one goes to complete the grid? When you're done, six words will appear in the grid's yellow boxes. Use those words to complete the bonus puzzle at the bottom of the page.

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 37.



3 letters
DEW

4 letters
HAIL
IDOL
SNOW
STAR
TIDE
TROY

5 letters
ACORN
CLOWN
DIVER
JENGA
NIGHT
SLEET

6 letters
CRUMBS
DOMINO
LEAVES
METEOR
PETALS
PRICES
SHADOW
STOCKS

7 letters
SOUFFLE

8 letters
SEA LEVEL

9 letters
BAROMETER
RAINDROPS
WATERFALL

11 letters
JACK AND JILL
ROMAN EMPIRE
TEMPERATURE

12 letters
HOUSE OF CARDS
HUMPTY DUMPTY
LONDON BRIDGE
NEW YEAR'S BALL

13 letters
BLOOD PRESSURE
INTEREST RATES

BONUS: Each of the shaded words from the grid above fits in one of the rows of boxes in the bonus grid to the right. Answer each clue by fitting one of the shaded words into the boxes so the clue's answer appears in the *yellow* boxes, with one unused letter (in the *orange* box) "falling out" to leave the shorter answer. When all the boxes are filled, the letters in the orange boxes, reading down, will spell the answer to this riddle:

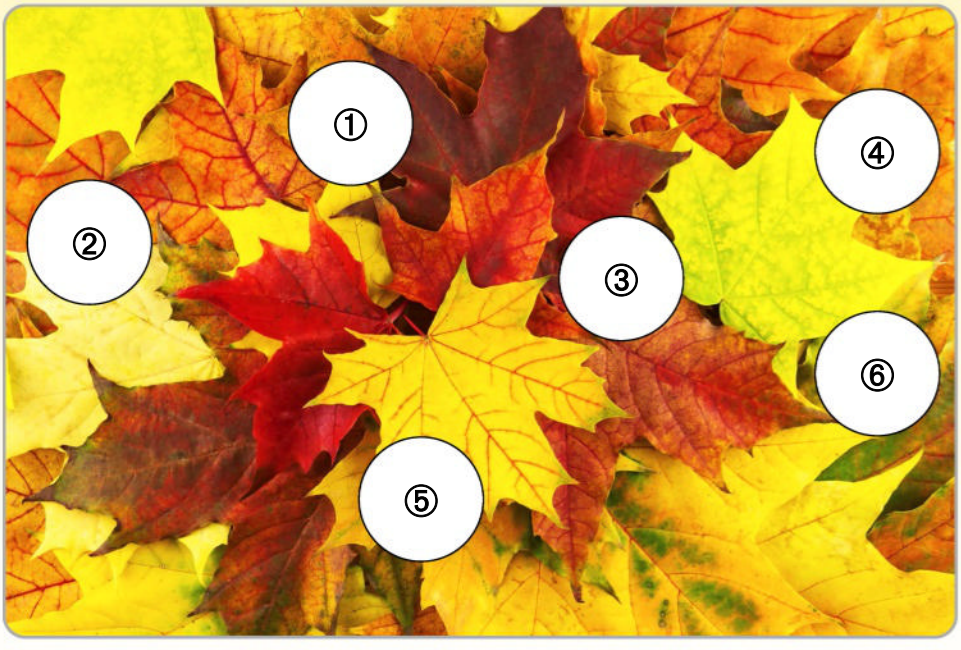
What is something you let fall when you need to use it and pick up when it's not needed?

Vegetable that grows in ears ▶
Female pig ▶
Asks nosy questions ▶
Feel sick or achy ▶
Word that can come after postage or parking ▶
____ *Story* (Pixar movie) ▶

PUZZLES BY PUZZABILITY

DETAILS, DETAILS

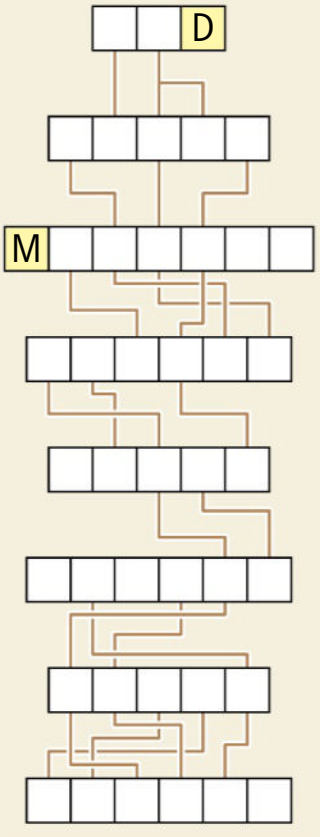
Six pieces have been removed from this photo of fall leaves. Can you match the circular details under the photo with the numbered sections they came from?



A _____ B _____ C _____ D _____ E _____ F _____

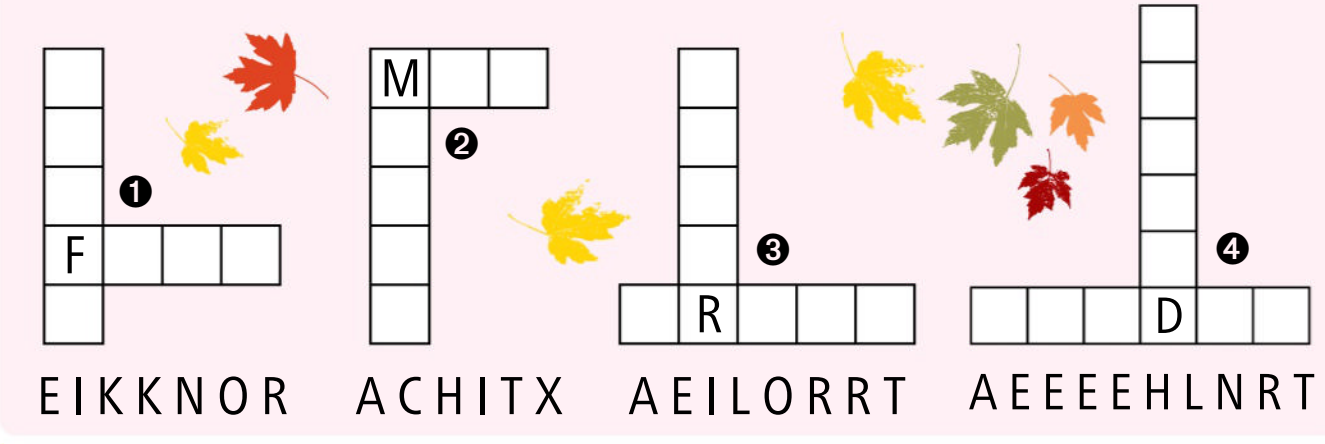
FALL COLORS

Fill in the names of eight colors, reusing letters that move down from one set of blanks to the next. The paths show you which letters move down and where they go.



This & that

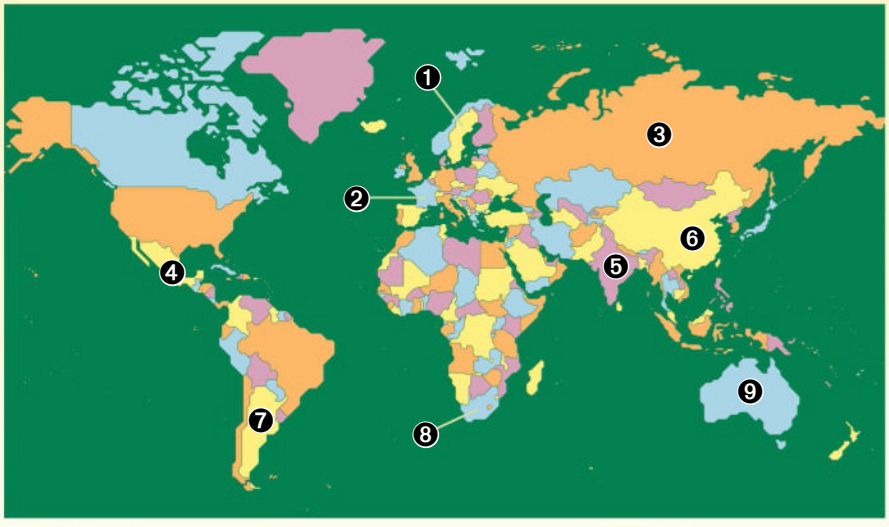
Use the letters given under each grid to fill in two words that are "and" pairs, like BOW and ARROW. The letter where the words cross is given.



GETTY IMAGES (ALL)

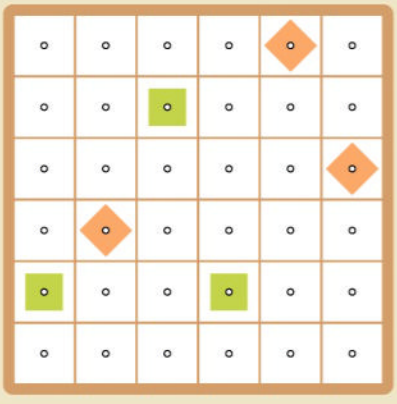
Far-flung flags of the world

Can you match the flags to their countries?



TURN AND GO

Draw one continuous path that goes through every box and makes a closed loop with no beginning or end. You must pass straight through any green box and must make a turn (like an L) in any orange diamond. Your path may not cross itself, and there is only one solution. (NEED A HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)



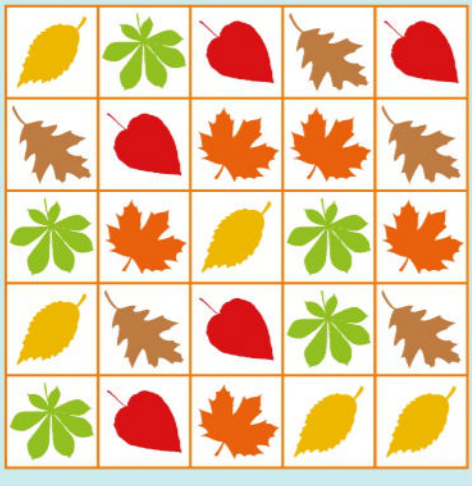
Juggling act

Use the letters O, S, L in any order to complete each four-letter word.

O	S	L	
		G	
			W
		I	
A			
			D
		S	

LEAF CUTTINGS

Divide this grid into five sections so each section consists of five adjacent boxes containing one of each kind of leaf. The sections may have different shapes.



Turn and go hint: The path through the bottom right green square is horizontal.

Back-to-school word search

Can you find all these words associated with school in the grid? They are hidden horizontally, vertically, or diagonally and can be forward or backward. When you're done, read the remaining letters to get a bonus message.

	T	H	T	S	S	E	C	E	R	E	O	L	P	R	I	N	C	I	P	A	L	D
M	E	S	E	S	F	H	O	M	E	W	O	R	K	T	E	X	T	O	E	I	I	S
X	A	K	A	K	I	T	I	P	A	E	C	N	E	I	C	S	S		C		B	
O	I	T	C	O	R	N	A	G	D	S	A	M	C	E	E	T	T		N		R	
B	R	O	H	O	E	T	I	C	I	A	C	C	N	T	E	N	N		A		A	
H	L	S	E	B	D	M	C	H	N	O	O	I	E	R	F	I	E	L	D	T	R	I	P	L	N	I
C	C	G	R	D	R	A	U	G	G	N	I	S	S	O	R	C	D		N		Y	E	S	O	D	B	N
N	L	H	E	U	I	R	A	Q	Y	C	L	U	B	S	R	L	U		E		Y	F	S	S	O	E	U
S	U	B	R	A	H	L	K	U	U	N	M	D	M	A	R	O	E	T		T		D	S	H	A	L	L	S	Y
E	L	E	B	U	L	L	E	T	I	N	B	O	A	R	D	A	R	S		T		E	T	R	L	R	L	S	K
					K	R	R	Z									S	S	A	L	C		R	T	O	E		
						S	L																	A	D			

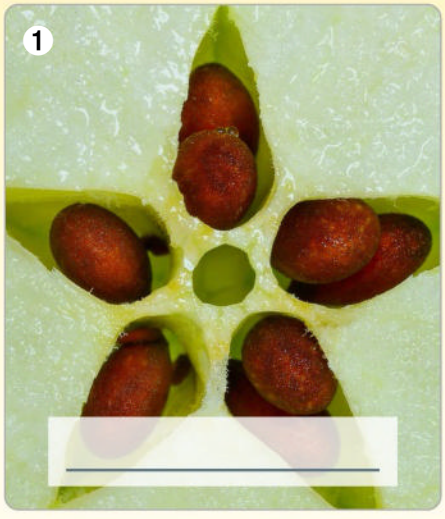
ABSENCE
ART
ATLAS
ATTENDANCE
BELL
BIKES
BOOKS
BULLETIN BOARD
BUS
CHALK
CLASS
CLOCK
CLUBS
CROSSING GUARD
DESK
ERASER
FIELD TRIP
FIRE DRILL
GLUE
GYM
HALLS
HOMEWORK
LESSON
LIBRARY
LUNCHBOX
MARKERS
MATH
MUSIC
POSTERS
PRINCIPAL
QUIZ
READING
RECESS
RULER
SCIENCE
SCISSORS
STUDENTS
TAPE
TEACHER
TEST

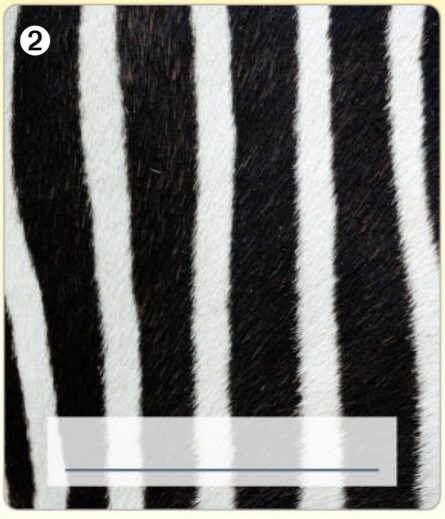
Spot the difference

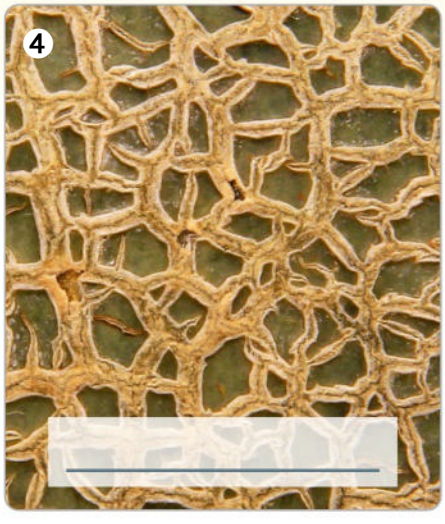
These two pictures of students boarding a school bus appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?

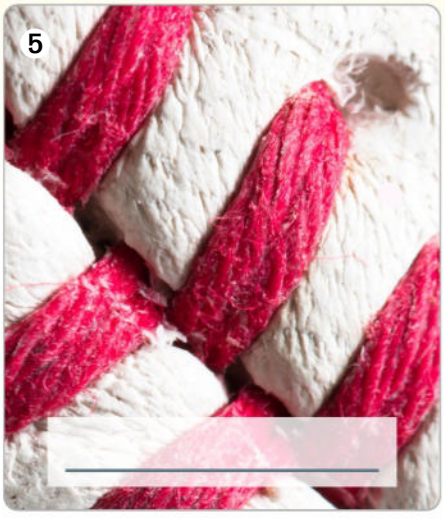
Up close

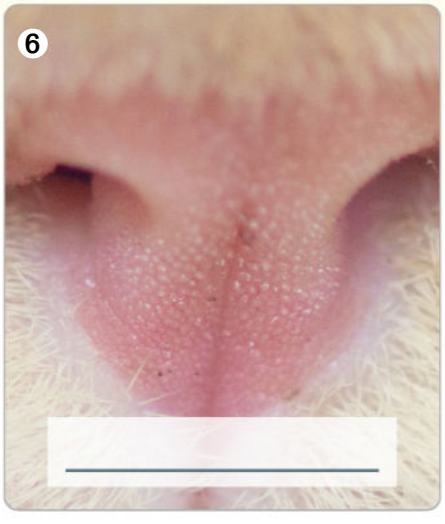
Each of these photos is an extreme close-up of something familiar. Can you recognize each one?

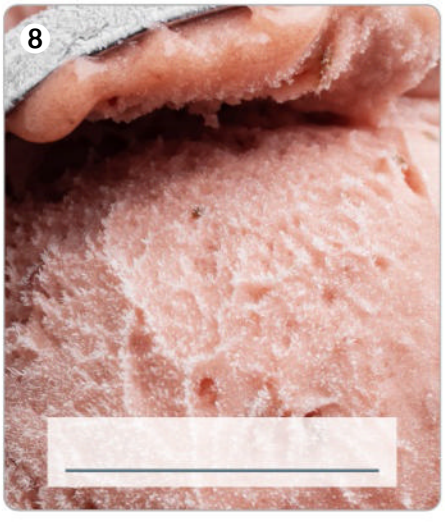












Amazing autumn word ladder

To change the word LEAF into the word PILE, use each clue to fill in a word that is only one letter different from the word before it. Three shaded answer words don't have clues. Use the answers before and after those words to determine what words belong in those boxes to continue the chain. If you get stuck, try solving from the bottom up. When you're finished, the three shaded words will tell you how to assemble a leaf pile.

L E A F

Kind of metal that is very heavy and dense ▶

Give, but expect to get back ▶

Touch down at the airport ▶

It's indicated by the lines in a road ▶

Body of water where you might go fishing ▶

Very out-of-the-ordinary ▶

Show concern ▶

Wheeled vehicle that's pulled by a horse ▶

Separation made in your hair by a comb ▶

City with a harbor where ships unload ▶

Make a sad face by pushing out your bottom lip ▶

Serve using a teakettle or a pitcher ▶

"I knew ____ say that!" (word spelled with an apostrophe) ▶

Causing people to cover their ears ▶

____ *of the Rings* (famous book and movie trilogy) ▶

An electrical plug is at the end of it ▶

The queen of hearts, for example ▶

Knitter's wool ▶

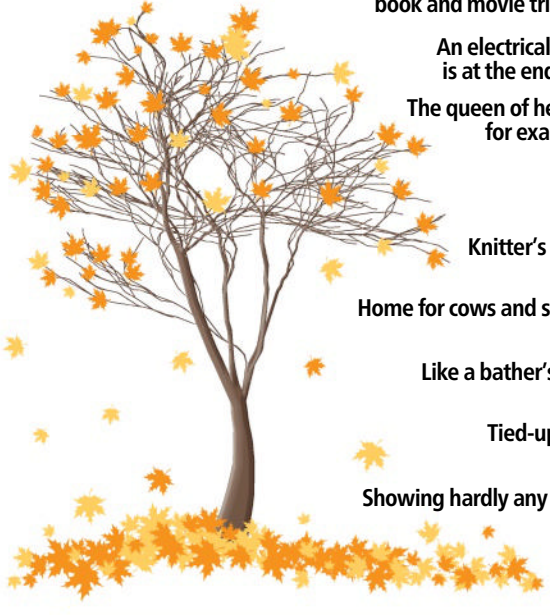
Home for cows and sheep ▶

Like a bather's feet ▶

Tied-up hay ▶

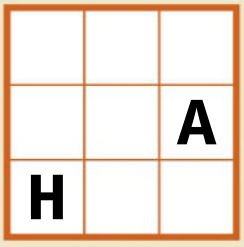
Showing hardly any color ▶

P I L E



CROSS-FIT

Complete this mini crossword so that three words read across the boxes and three different words read down. Clues are given for all six words but in random order. Use the letters that are given to help you get started.



- Every single one
- Fireplace remnant
- Move like a frog
- Place for a napkin, during dinner
- The Mediterranean is one
- Zodiac sign represented as a lion

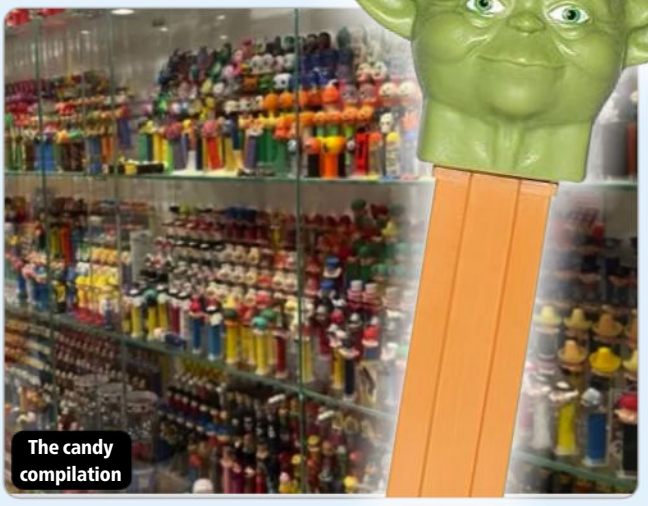
Find the match

Which two of these teachers are the same?

King-size Kefir with his owner

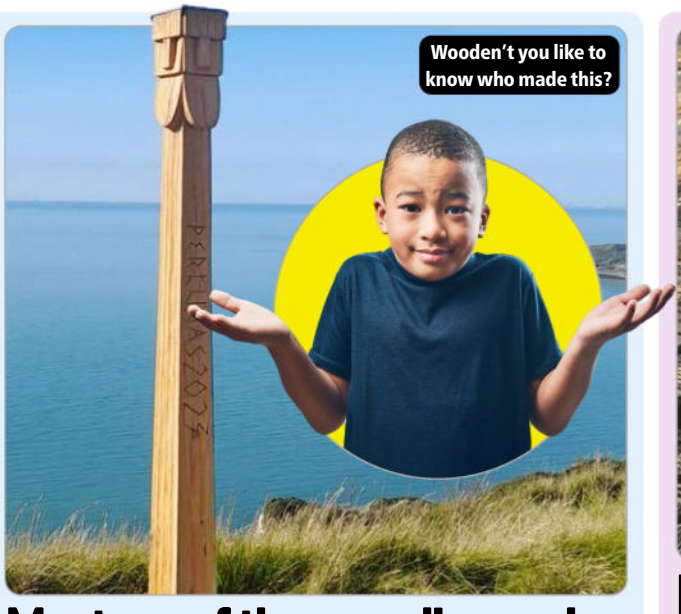
Colossal cat is a gentle giant

Yuliya Minina of Russia said she has the "largest cat in the world." Maine coons, a domestic cat breed, weigh 12 to 18 pounds on average. But 3-year-old Kefir weighed in at 28 pounds last year and has continued growing. Now he stands almost as tall as Minina's 4-year-old daughter and can reach door handles. Kefir is "very smart" and "affectionate," Minina said. There's only one problem: "At night he likes to climb on me and sleep...it is difficult to sleep like that."


The candy compilation

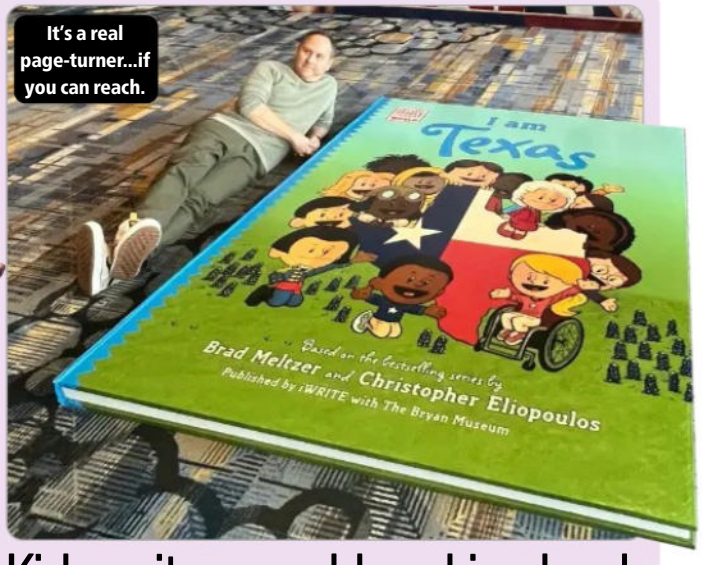
A very im-Pez-ive collection

A New Jersey man is officially the owner of the world's most extensive collection of candy dispensers. Brian Trauman has 5,548 Pez dispensers to his name. "I started the quest to 'get them all' in 1999," Trauman said. "I didn't know how many that might be." He says some of his dispensers are worth more than $10,000. But others have a more personal value—such as a Pez Yoda, the all-knowing character in *Star Wars*, which his sister gave him when he was studying for the bar exam to become a practicing attorney.


Wooden't you like to know who made this?

Mystery of the puzzling pole

A wildlife organization is trying to find out who erected a mysterious wooden pole in the UK. It looks similar to totem poles, carved monuments traditionally made by artists native to North America. The nearly 8-foot-tall sculpture was installed overnight on a coastal path at a nature reserve. It was carved with the name Perkunas, a god of thunder in the mythology of the Baltic region of Europe. No artist has been identified. A reserve manager said, "It's a totem mystery."


I am Texas
Based on the bestselling series by
Brad Meltzer and Christopher Eliopoulos
Published by iWRITE with The Bryan Museum
It's a real page-turner...if you can reach.

Kids write record-breaking book

Weighing in at more than 470 pounds and measuring 7 feet tall by 11 feet wide, the book *I Am Texas* has earned the Guinness World Records title of the biggest book ever published. The book's creators struggled to find a printer that could handle its oversize pages, and it took six people to lift the book and flip it over during the binding process. Its pages are filled with stories, poetry, and artwork from Texas students about what the Lone Star State means to them. "Our goal was to inspire kids to do something *big*," said one of the creators.

They're on a munchie mission.

Taking off on a tasty journey

New Jersey is home to more diners than any other state, and Jon and Karri Ricklin are on a quest to eat at all of them. Ever since Karri snapped a picture of Jon holding a menu at a diner in 2015, the pair has taken a similar photo at each place they visit. The couple has already crossed 212 diners off their list of 415. Karri usually orders a salad or a tuna sandwich, while Jon often orders burgers, wraps, or platters. Karri calls it "a vacation...without the suitcase."

Harrison Ford (right) and his name-snake

Reptile gets a famous name

A newly discovered species of snake in Peru has been named Tachymenoides harrisonfordi after the actor Harrison Ford, known for film roles like the adventurer Indiana Jones. Ford said he found it "humbling" but confusing that researchers have named a snake, an ant, and a spider after him. "These scientists keep naming critters after me, but it's always the ones that terrify children," he said. "I don't understand. I spend my free time cross-stitching. I sing lullabies to my basil plants."

It tastes like nothing else.

The candy without a flavor

A new candy landed on Japanese shelves for a few weeks this summer, and people are still talking about it. That's because it was not sweet—in fact, it had no flavor at all. The product, named Flavorless (?) Candy, was made for people who wanted to ease the feeling of a dry mouth after wearing a mask all day but didn't want a sugar rush. One consumer described it as being like "ice that is not cold." Osamu Oouchi, who helped develop the candy, said it was like a "marble in your mouth that gradually melts and disappears."

Could this be a cosmic riddle?

A symbol appears in space

Humans have many questions about the universe, but does the universe have a question for us? A recent image captured by the James Webb Space Telescope showed what looked like a glowing red question mark in the cosmos, possibly billions of light-years from Earth. Some scientists think a round object and a curved object may have lined up, by chance, to look like a piece of earthling punctuation. Are you questioning this story, or are you marking it down as true?*

*Real! When the telescope captured an image of two forming stars, the symbol was in the background. One theory is that the shape was created by two galaxies merging together. Regardless of how it got there, one scientist said, "It's very cute."

LAWSON: COURTESY JON RICKLIN AND KARRI RICKLIN; ALAMY; COURTESY OF CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL; NASA/ESA/CSA; ON LEFT PAGE: @YULIYAMINN/INSTAGRAM; KENT WILDLIFE TRUST; GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS (2); ALAMY

Editor's note

If you've started the new school year, how has it been for you so far? If you haven't begun yet, how are you feeling about going into a new grade? On page 12, you can see what the students across the US who responded to our back-to-school survey had to say about the new year—and don't miss their advice for other kids! This week we're also excited to bring you a special bonus section of back-to-school recipes (p24) and six pages of puzzles to boost your brainpower (p28). We hope you enjoy them! If you would like to tell us what you think of the recipes, the puzzles, your new school year, or any other topic, please write a few sentences and have an adult email it to *hello@theweekjunior.com*, along with a photo of you. We might publish it in a future issue. Our offices will be closed for the next week, but we will be back to bring you Issue 179 the week after that. In the meantime, we wish you an amazing school year!

Andrea Barbalich
Editor-in-Chief

CHARITY OF THE WEEK

New York Says Thank You Foundation

This organization helps communities rebuild after a disaster. It was formed after people came together to help New York City during its recovery from the terrorist attacks on the US on September 11, 2001. Every year on September 11, it sends volunteers to an area in the US that needs help. The group has also worked in 32 countries. Find out more at newyorksaysthankyou.org.

YOUR PHOTOS

We'd love to see pictures of you! Have an adult email them to us at *hello@theweekjunior.com*, with your description of what's happening in the photo.

"I read *The Week Junior* on our summer trip while buried in the sand." Mila, 10, South Carolina

"I can't get enough of *The Week Junior* this summer." James, 12, Maryland

"I enjoyed reading *The Week Junior* when camping. My favorite part is Around the World." Emma, 12, Vermont

"We went to Washington, DC, and visited the natural history museum. I was excited to see the fossil of an ankylosaur after reading about it in *The Week Junior*." Lia, 9, Ohio

"I love doing the puzzle page with my family while waiting for breakfast!" Odin, 10, Washington

THE WEEK Junior IT'S YOUR TURN Email your news, views, and photos to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

Puzzle and quiz answers

BRAIN TWISTERS AND TEASERS (pages 28–33)

Super "fall" crisscross

H	O	U	S	E	O	F	C	A	R	D	S			J						
		H				O		N	E	W	Y	E	A	R	S	B	A	L	L	B
P	E	T	A	L	S		H		M		O			N				O		L
R		D					U		A		W			G		M		N		O
I		O		D	O	M	I	N	O				L	E	A	V	E	S		O
C	L	O	W	N			P		E		S					T		T	R	O	Y	D
E							T	E	M	P	E	R	A	T	U	R	E			N		P
S		A		W		Y		P		A						O			B		R
	J	A	C	K	A	N	D	J	I	L	L		I	N	T	E	R	E	S	T	R	A	T	E	S
		O		T		U		R		E			I					I			S
C		R		E		M		E		V			G				T	I	D	E		S
R	A	I	N	D	R	O	P	S			E			H	A	I	L		G		U
U				F		T			S	L	E	E	T				D	I	V	E	R	R
M				A		Y			T								D			D	E	W
B				L					A							S	T	O	C	K	S	
S	O	U	F	F	L	E		B	A	R	O	M	E	T	E	R			L			

Crisscross bonus

			A	C	O	R	N		
		S	N	O	W				
	P	R	I	C	E	S			
			H	A	I	L			
M	E	T	E	O	R				
			T	R	O	Y			

This & that

K						M	I	X	
N						A			
I		1				T	2		
F	O	R	K			C			
E						H			
							T		
E							H		
R							R		
O		3				4	E		
T	R	I	A	L		N	E	E	D	L	E

Far-flung flags of the world

1 Sweden = **H**
2 France = **F**
3 Russia = **E**
4 Mexico = **D**
5 India = **I**
6 China = **G**
7 Argentina = **B**
8 South Africa = **C**
9 Australia = **A**

Juggling act

logs
slow
soil
also
sold
loss

Fall colors

red
green
magenta
orange
brown
yellow
olive
violet

Details, details

Spot the difference

Up close

1 apple seeds **2** zebra **3** dandelion **4** cantaloupe
5 baseball **6** cat's nose **7** poppy seed roll
8 strawberry ice cream **9** ladybug

Amazing autumn word ladder

L E A F
L E A D
L E N D
L A N D
L A N E
L A K E
R A K E
R A R E
C A R E
C A R T
P A R T
P O R T
P O U T
P O U R
Y O U R
Y O U ' D
L O U D
L O R D
C O R D
C A R D
Y A R D
Y A R N
B A R N
B A R E
B A L E
P A L E
P I L E

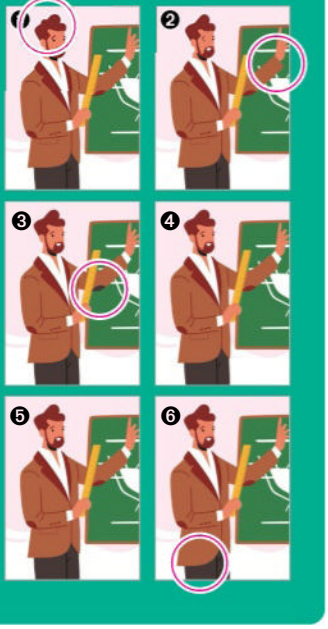
Back-to-school word search

T	H	T	S	S	E	C	E	R	E	O	L	P	R	I	N	C	I	P	A	L	D									
M	E	S	E	S	F	H	O	M	E	W	O	R	K	T	E	X	T	O	E	I	S									
X	A	K	A	K	I	T	I	P	A	E	C	N	E	I	C	S	S		C	B										
O	I	T	C	O	R	N	A	G	D	S	A	M	C	E	E	T	T		N	R										
B	R	O	H	O	E	T	I	C	I	A	C	C	N	T	E	N	N		A	A										
H	L	S	E	B	D	M	C	H	N	O	O	I	E	R	F	I	E	L	D	T	R	I	P	L	N	I				
C	C	G	R	D	R	A	U	G	G	N	I	S	S	O	R	C	D		N	Y	E	S	O	D	B	N				
N	L	H	E	U	I	R	A	Q	Y	C	L	U	B	S	R	L	U		E	Y	F	S	S	O	E	U				
S	U	B	R	A	H	L	K	U	U	N	M	D	M	A	R	O	E	T	T	D	S	H	A	L	L	S	Y			
E	L	E	B	U	L	L	E	T	I	N	B	O	A	R	D	A	R	S	T	E	T	R	L	R	L	S	K			
				K	R	R	Z											S	S	A	L	C		R	T	O	E			
					S	L																			A	D					

Unused letters: The oldest existing American school is nearly four hundred years old.

Find the match

Numbers 4 and 5 are the same.

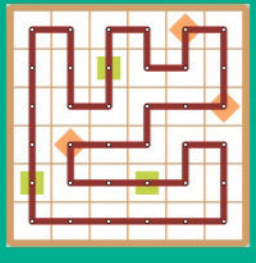


Leaf cuttings

Cross-fit

A	L	L
S	E	A
H	O	P

Turn and go



GETTY IMAGES

Quiz answers (from page 38)

1 True **2** b) A'ja Wilson **3** Silver Mustache **4** b) Four **5** Syria **6** a) 38 million **7** False. They will be able to pay with a palm scan. **8** a) New Jersey **9** Spain **10** a) $11.75
11 *Roots of Happiness* **12** c) Eclipse magic **13** False. It is the fourth. **14** b) Louis Lappe **15** True

How much of this issue's news can you remember?

1 True or false? A veterinary hospital for dolphins and porpoises in Massachusetts is the first of its kind.

True ☐ False ☐

2 Who recently tied the WNBA record for most points scored in a single game?

a) Aliyah Boston b) A'ja Wilson

c) Kelsey Plum

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

3 In the book *Wrecker*, what is the name of the man who is keeping tabs on Wrecker?

4 Scientists plan to release how many Guam kingfisher chicks into the wild?

a) Three b) Four c) Five

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

5 A 12-foot-tall puppet called Little Amal symbolizes a refugee from what country?

6 A newly discovered whale that may be Earth's heaviest animal lived about how many years ago?

a) 38 million b) 78 million c) 138 million

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

7 True or false? Shoppers at Whole Foods stores will soon be able to pay for groceries with a fingerprint scan.

True ☐ False ☐

8 Which US state has the most diners?

a) New Jersey

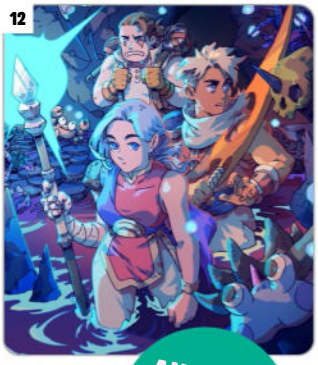
b) New Mexico

c) New York

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

4

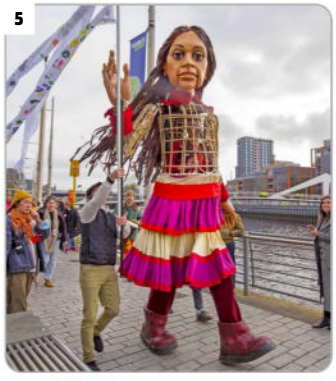
12



1

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 37.

5



14

9 A herd of horses has been introduced in the Iberian Highlands in which European country?

10 How much did the average movie ticket in the US cost in 2022?

a) $11.75 b) $13.25 c) $15.50

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

11 What is the title of the new book by Susie Dent, who is known as the "Human Dictionary"?

12 The video game Sea of Stars revolves around two young warriors who use which type of magic?

a) Event magic

b) Element magic

c) Eclipse magic

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

13 True or false? India is the fifth country to reach the surface of the Moon.

True ☐ False ☐

14 Who hit the game-winning home run for California in the Little League Baseball World Series championship?

a) Nassir El-Ossais

b) Louis Lappe

c) Ollie Parks

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

15 True or false? A newly discovered reptile species is named after the actor Harrison Ford.

True ☐ False ☐

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BEAUTY BY THE SEA

The dramatic arches and caves of Cathedrals Beach in northwestern Spain were sculpted over thousands of years by the Cantabrian Sea.

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